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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

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BATTLE ROYAL

48 PAGE SPECIAL!

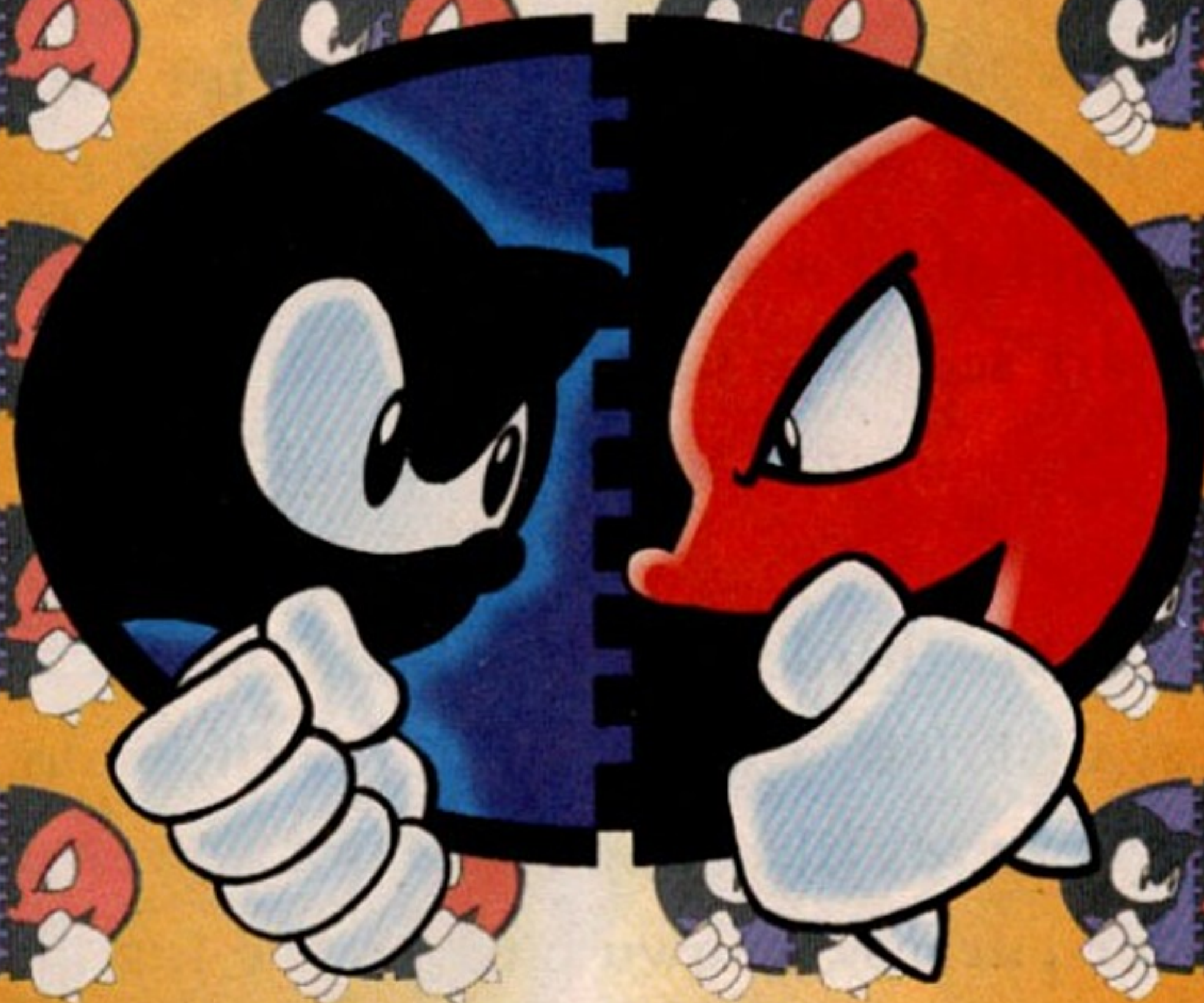


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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

BATTLE ROYAL



"BATTLE ROYAL!"

Kent Taylor & Ken Pender-Writers, Sam Maxwell-Penciler,
Jim Amash-Inker, Karl Bollers-Colorist, Jeff Powell-Letterer

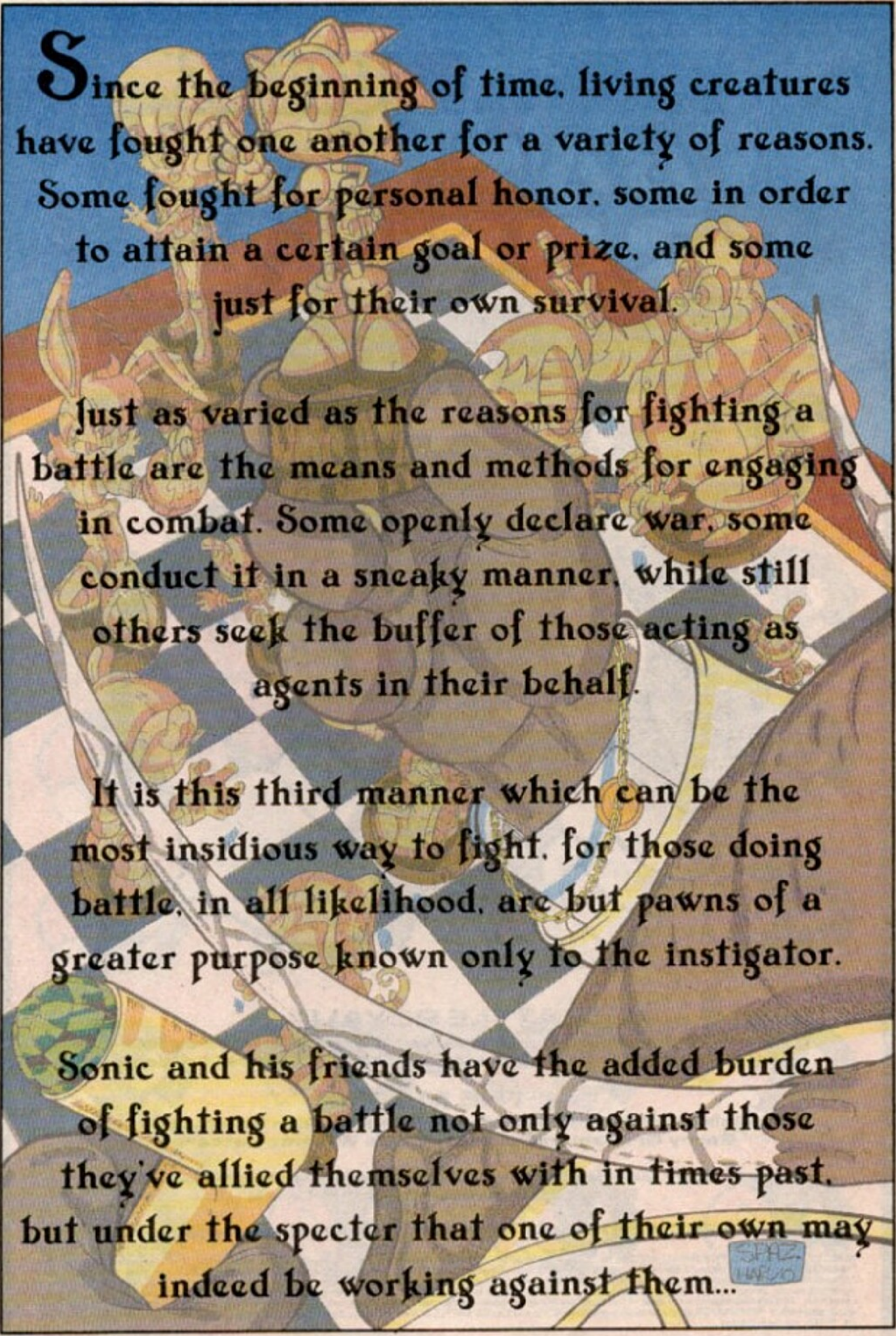
"THE MAP"

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J. Freddy Gabrie-Editor, Victor Gorelick-Managing Editor,
Richard Goldwater-Editor-in-Chief

SPECIAL THANKS to Susan Suarez and Helen Ball

SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL No. 1, 1997. Published by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$2.00 in the U.S., \$2.50 in Canada. SEGA and GENESIS are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic the Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. © 1997 by SEGA of America, Inc. unless otherwise noted. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of SEGA of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Title registered in U.S. Patent Office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Printed in Canada.



Since the beginning of time, living creatures have fought one another for a variety of reasons. Some fought for personal honor, some in order to attain a certain goal or prize, and some just for their own survival.

Just as varied as the reasons for fighting a battle are the means and methods for engaging in combat. Some openly declare war, some conduct it in a sneaky manner, while still others seek the buffer of those acting as agents in their behalf.

It is this third manner which can be the most insidious way to fight, for those doing battle, in all likelihood, are but pawns of a greater purpose known only to the instigator.

Sonic and his friends have the added burden of fighting a battle not only against those they've allied themselves with in times past, but under the specter that one of their own may indeed be working against them...

SPAZ
1/1/20

EVER AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD, THE GRAND SPECTACLE THAT IS THE FLOATING ISLAND ALWAYS SPARKS AWE, EVEN IN MINDS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS OF FUTURE EXISTENCE...

STILL, TODAY'S JOURNEY, FILLED WITH PROMISE OF NEW PROSPERITY FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IS NEVERTHELESS LADEN WITH ANXIETY AS IT WAS INITIATED BY A DISTRESS CALL...

HMM... I WONDER...
WEE! WE HAVE ZEE TRIUMPH
OR ZEE DOOM WHEN WE
ONCE AGAIN VISIT KNUCKLES'
HOME?

C'MON, ANTOINE! IT
CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE
GOOD NEWS WHEN ROTOR
ARRIVED AT OUR CAMPFIRE
POW WOW* TO TELL US KNUX
WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS
QUEST!

*THE "POW WOW" AND RETRIEVAL
OF KING ACORN'S SWORD
HAPPENED IN SONIC # 46. -- J.M.



UNFORTUNATELY, KNUX'S RADIOED MESSAGE ALSO SAID THE ISLAND WAS UNDER SIEGE...



...AND AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR US, THE LEAST WE OWE HIM IS A LITTLE SUPPORT!



BUT AFTER A LONG AND SEEMINGLY FRUITLESS EXPEDITION...

HOW COME THERE'S NO SIGN OF KNUX OR A BATTLE?



BATTLE ROYAL
PART ONE

Dulcy The Dragon

Tails

Princess Sally Acorn

Sonic The Hedgehog

Rotor

Antoine D'Coolette

Bunnie Rabbet

VOW, SHMON!
LOOKS LIKE WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID IS STILL TRUE--OL' POINTY HEAD CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

BUT...WHAT ABOUT KNUCKLES' SOLEMN VOW?

THAT'S CAUSE WE JUST FINISHED DEFEATING OUR ENEMIES...THANKS TO THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE KING'S SWORD!

IN FACT, IT WAS SO SWEET WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM KNUX TO SEND YOU PACKIN' WITH-OUT IT!





TOO LATE FOR THAT-- THESE GUYS GOT OUR CANDRUFF UP!



COOL DOWN, SONIC! TAKE THEM DOWN-- BUT WITH MINIMUM FORCE!



YOU WON'T TAKE US DOWN BEFORE WE TAKE YOU OUT!

OUTTA THE WAY, DULCY! LET ME AT 'IM!

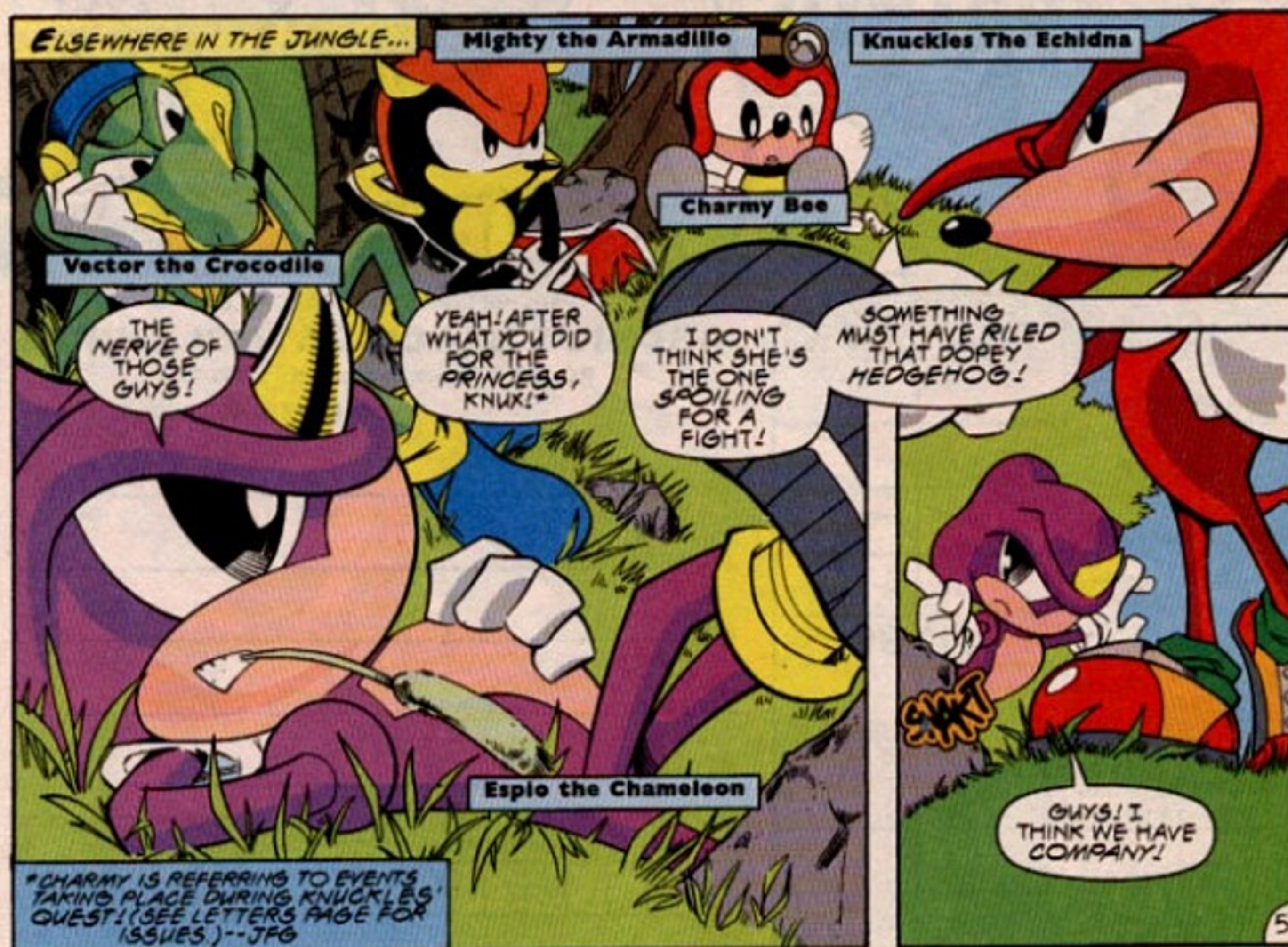
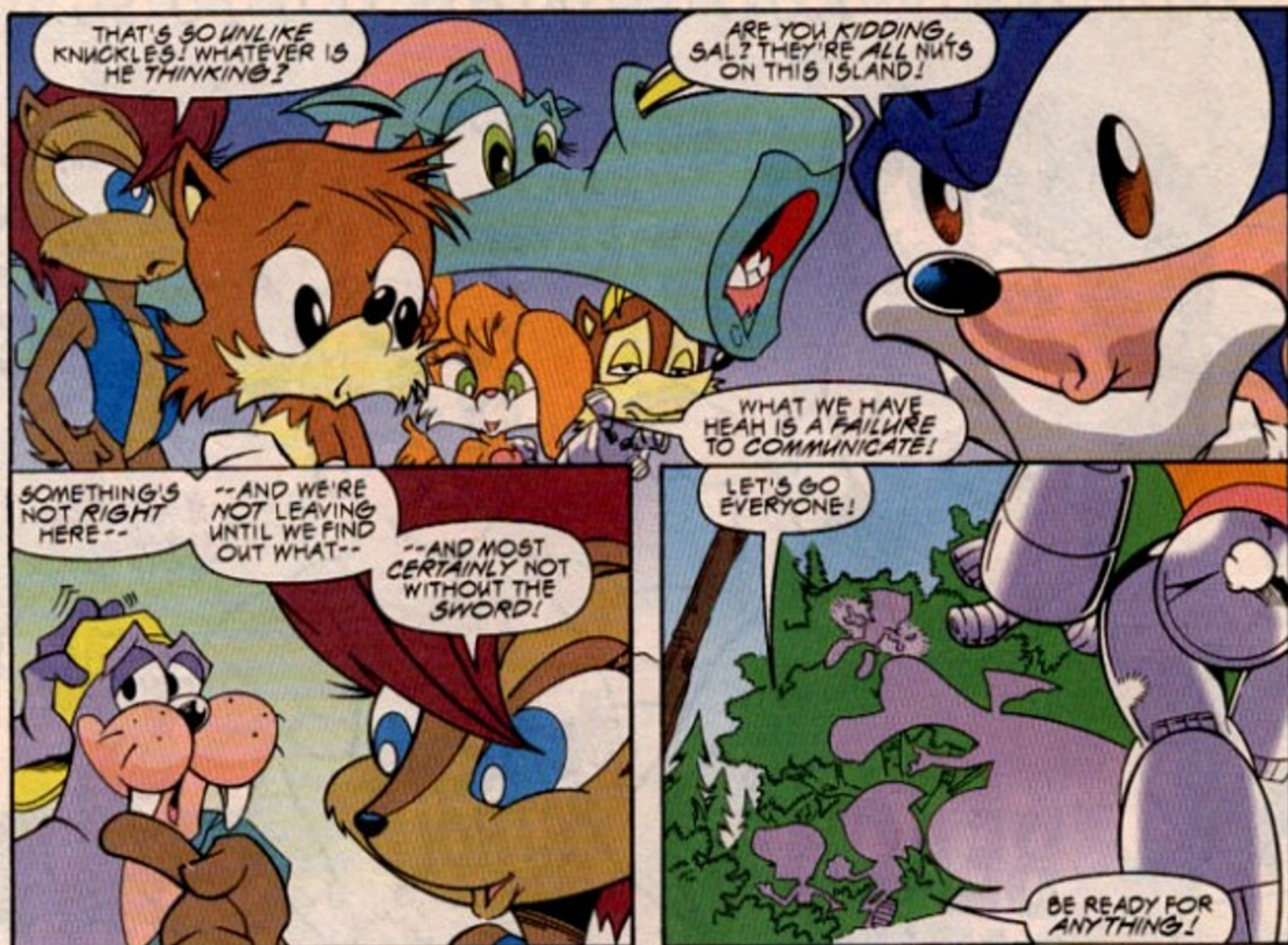
YOU HEARD SALLY! WE'RE JUST TRYING TO STOP THEM!

GLOB

YEAH! YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO STICK AROUND WHILE WE SORT THIS OUT!

BAMF

NOT IF THE POWERS OF THE NEARBY ARCHIMEDES HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT! WE'LL BE BACK AND KNUCKLES WILL BE WITH US!



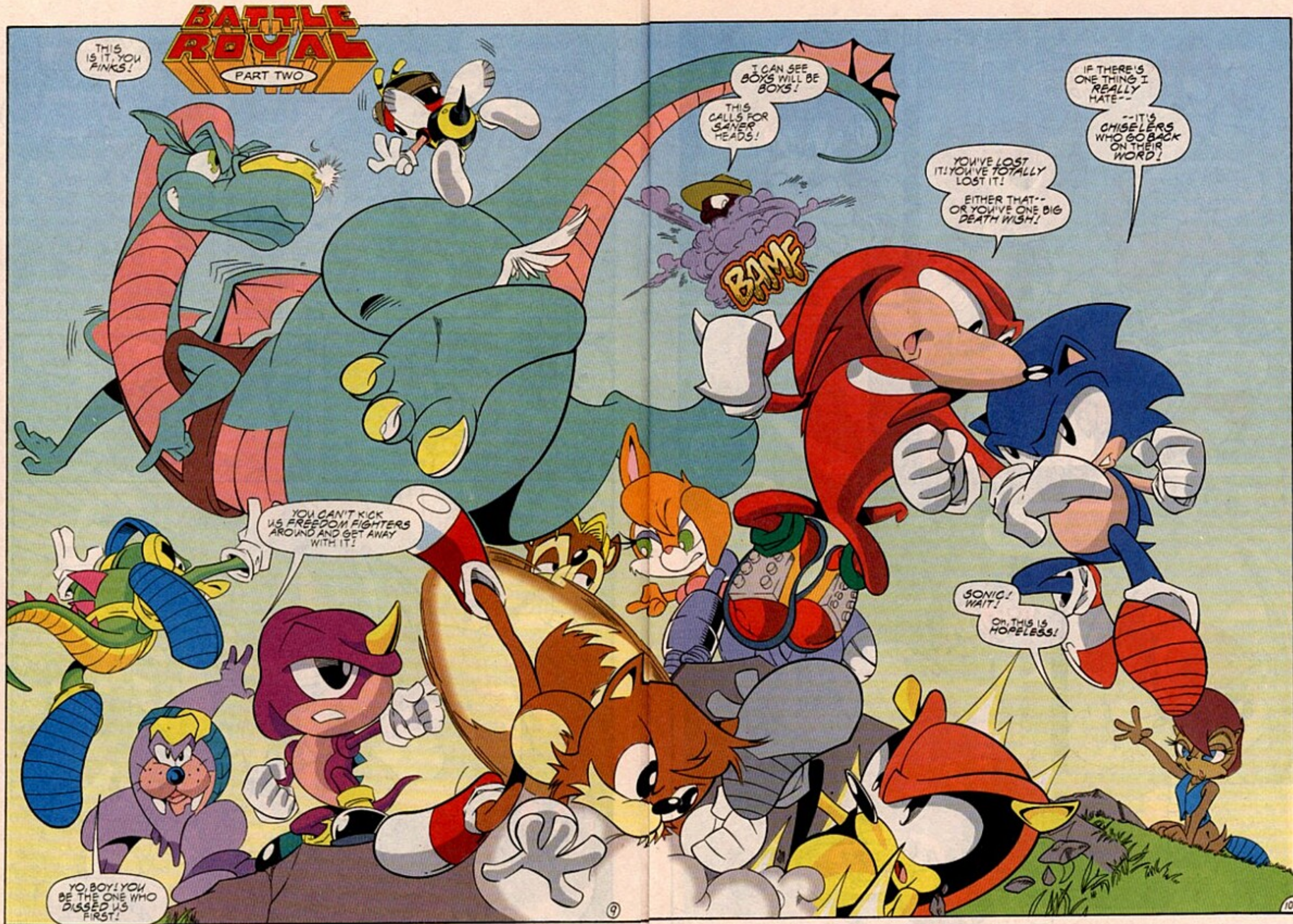


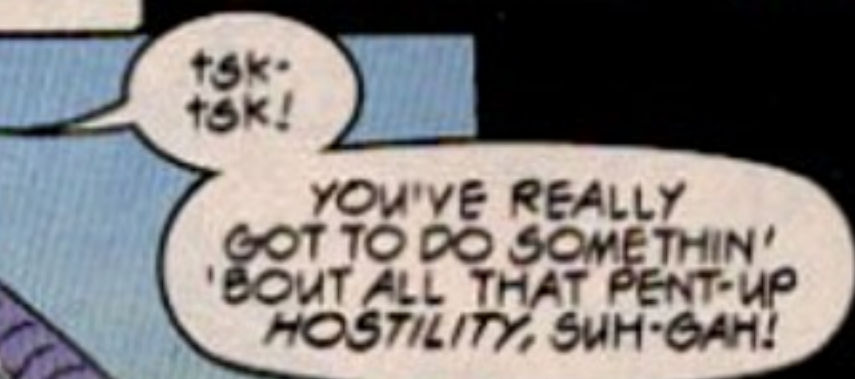




BATTLE ROYAL

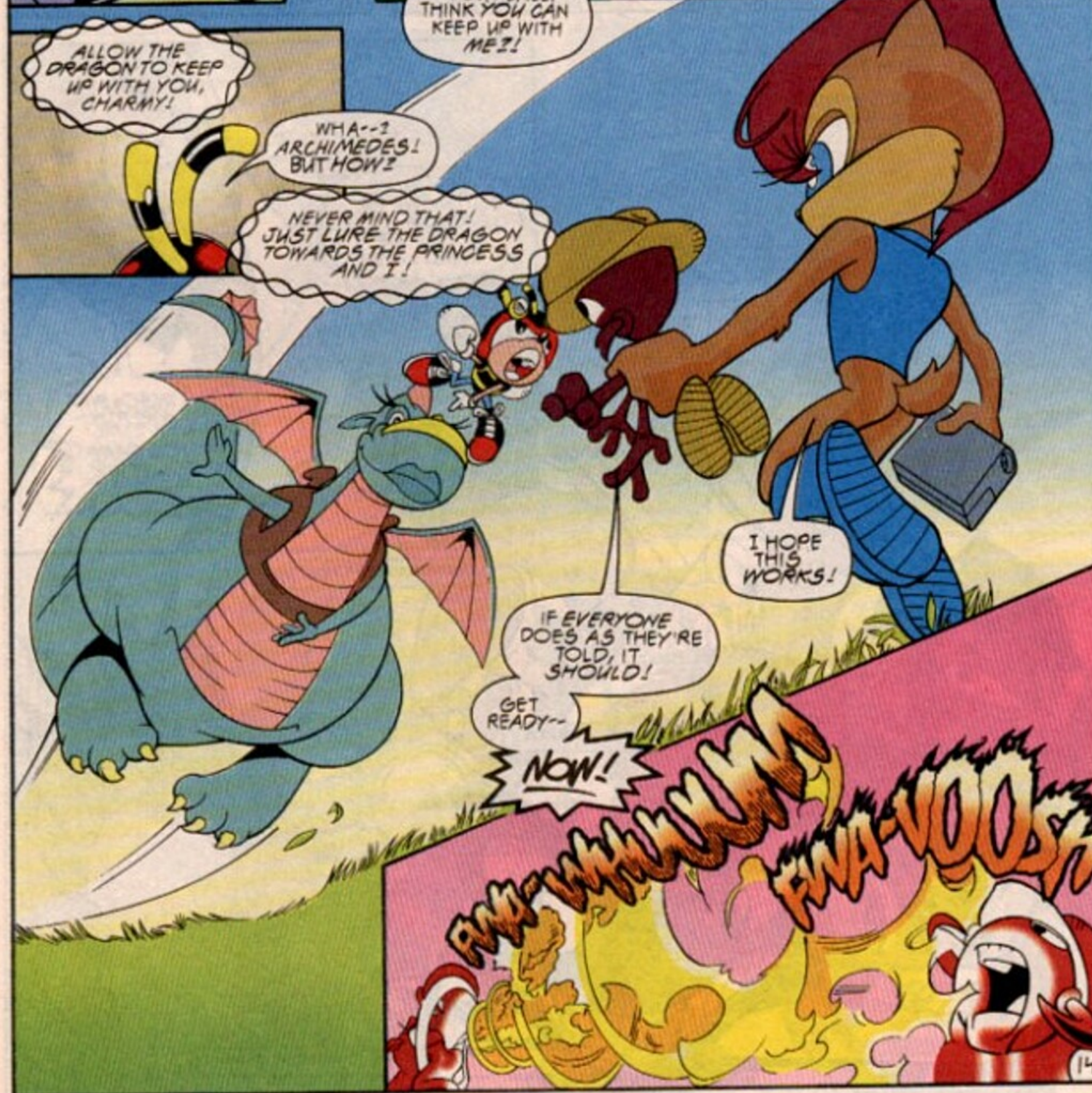
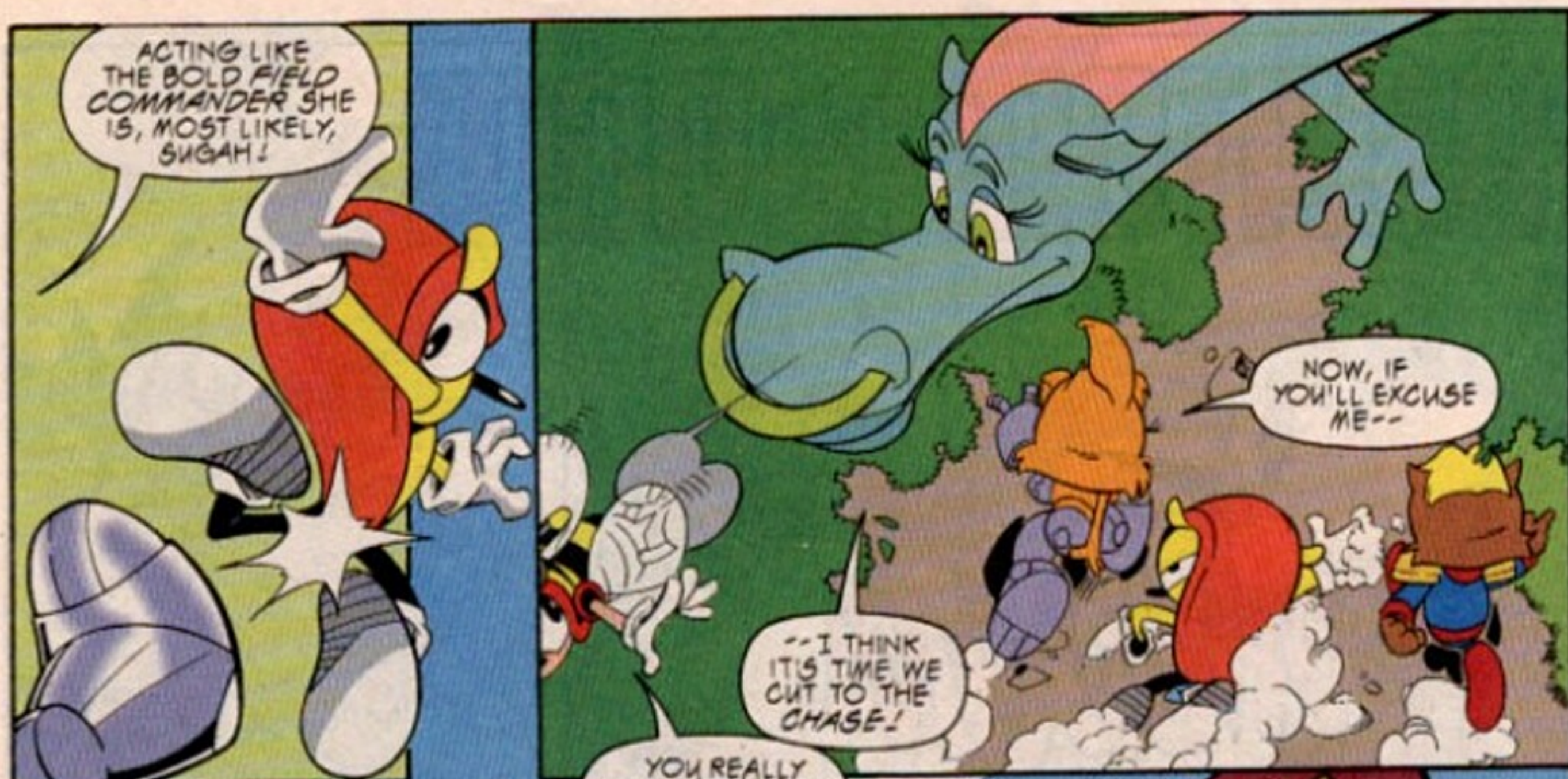
PART TWO











FWATOOMTTOOM

BA-DHUUUM

AT
LAST--

VICTORY
IS MINE!

SAVOR THE
SWEET SMELL OF
SUCCESS, MY MENACING
MINIONS!

BEFORE LONG,
THE WORLD SHALL
BE OURS!

DON'T YOU
THINK WE'RE
GETTING A LITTLE
AHEAD OF
OURSELVES?

INSOLENT
WRETCH!

YOU DARE
DOUBT MY
POWER?!

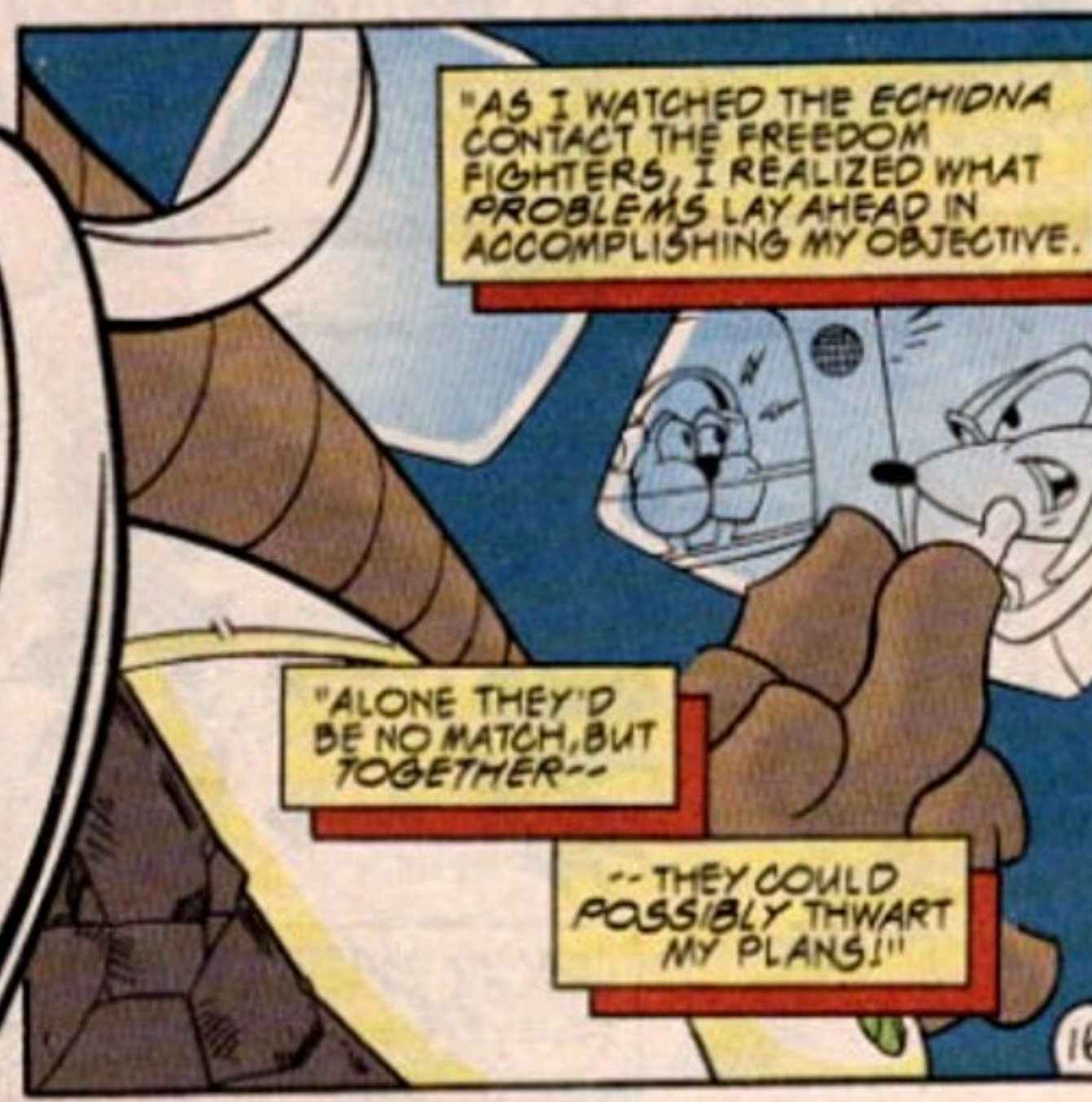
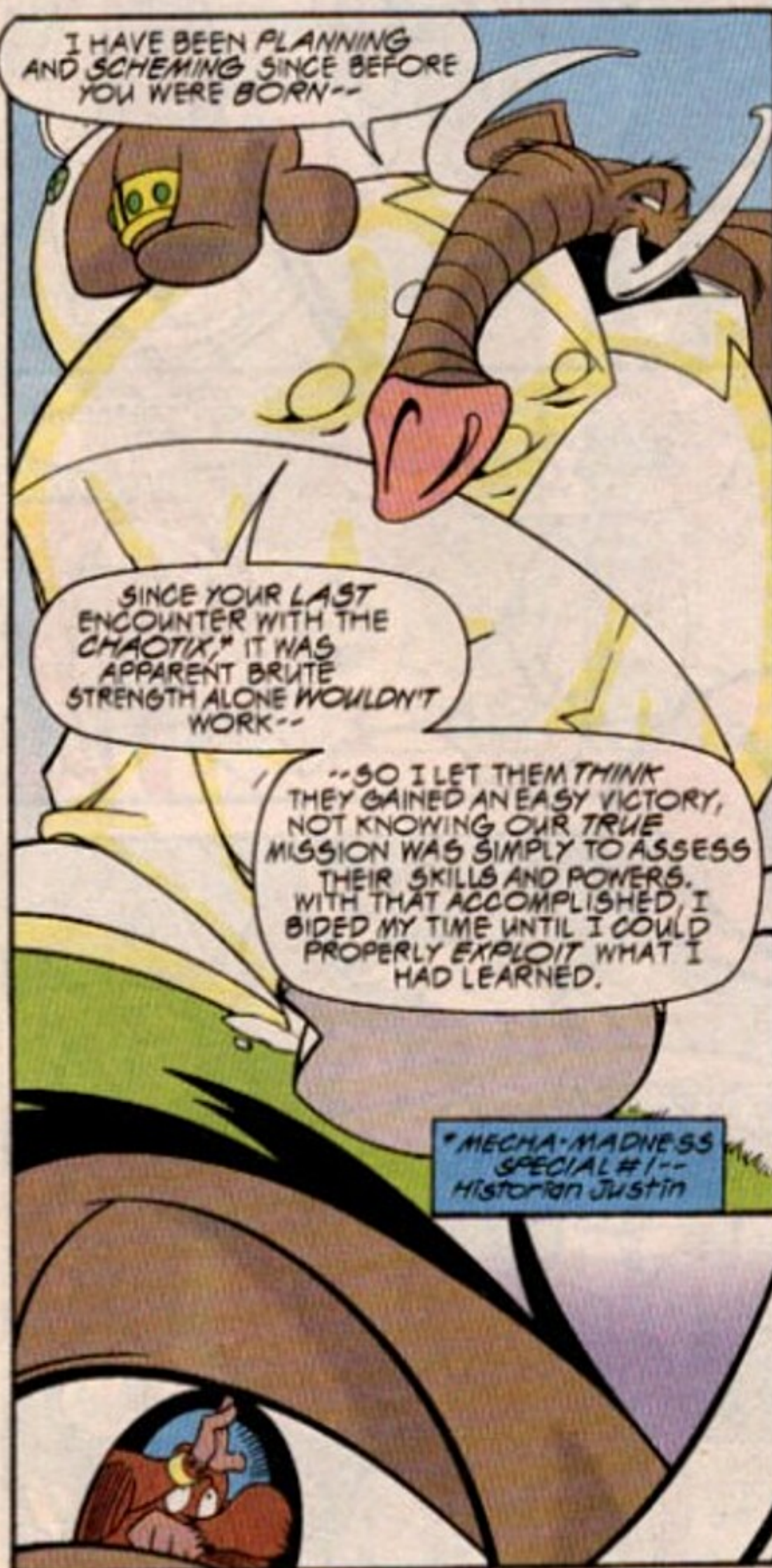
Mammoth Mogul

Sgt. Simian

Lightning Lynx

Flying Frog

Predator Hawk



"THAT'S WHY I SEIZED THE MOMENT
MAKING USE OF MY VAST PSYCHIC
ABILITIES TO ALTER THE REALITIES
OF MY UNWITTING Pawns..."

I CONTROL
THE HORIZONTAL--
I CONTROL THE
VERTICAL--

"WHAT NEITHER THE WALRUS
OR ECHIDNA REALIZED WAS
THAT THEY WERE WATCHING
IMAGES GENERATED THROUGH
MY THOUGHTWAVES..."

--AND THE ISLAND'S
UNDER SIEGE AGAIN, SO
FOR NOW...WE'RE KEEPING
THE SWORD!

HOLD FAST!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO HELP!

"THERE WAS STILL DANGER THAT COOLER
HEADS WOULD PREVAIL, SO I CREATED THE
ILLUSION OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME
AS MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND THE CHAOTIX, IN ORDER TO FAN THE
FLAMES OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE
OPPOSING SIDES..."

...AND YOU'VE TAKEN
TOO LONG TO RETURN
THE SWORD--WE'RE
COMING FOR IT AND
YOU!

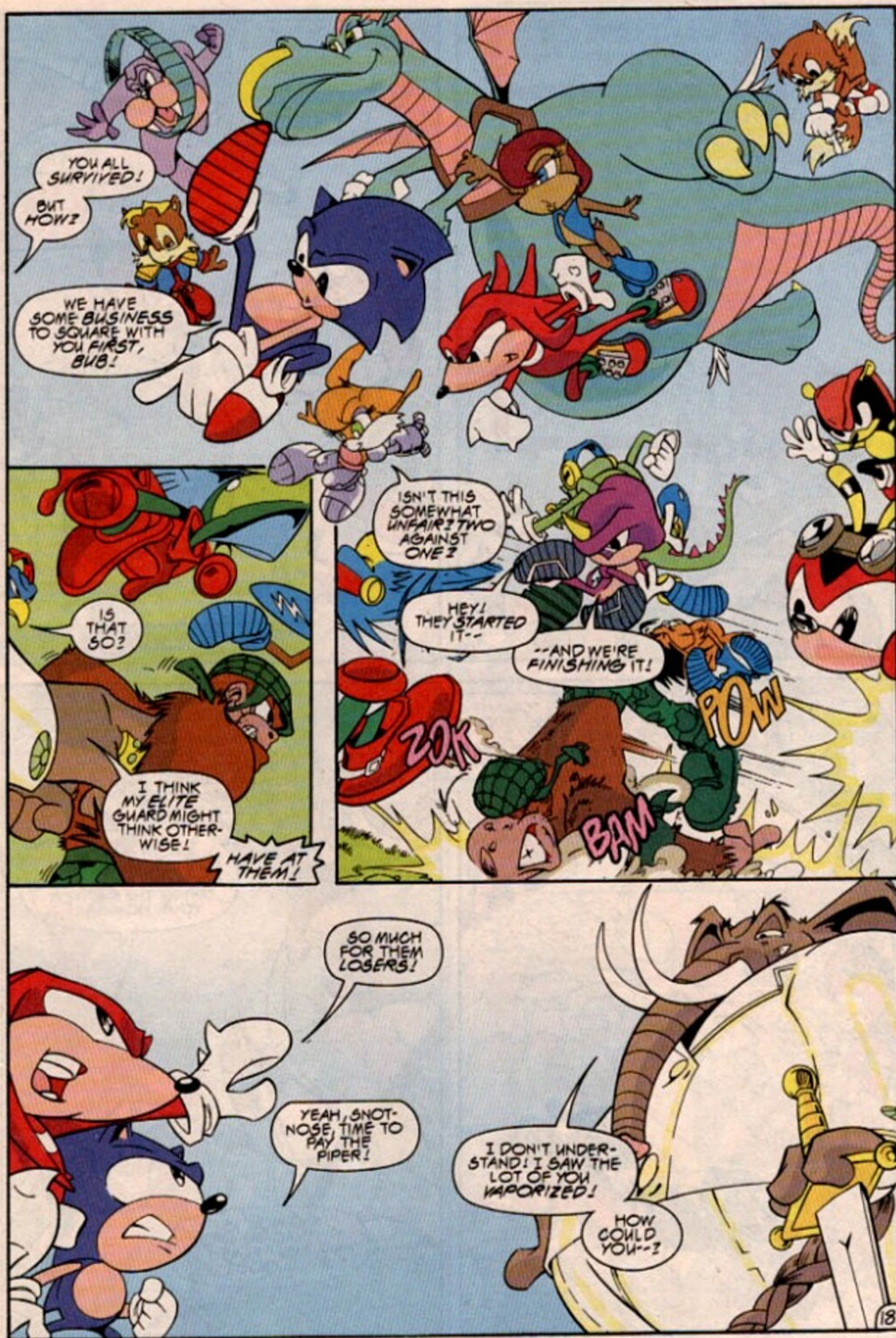
WHAT ARE
YOU JABBERING
ABOUT?

--ALLOWING US
TO WATCH FROM THE
SIDELINES WHILE
THEY BATTLED AMONGST
THEMSELVES!

YEP! THAT
WAS QUITE
THE PLAN,
MAN!

THAT
VOICE--!

"HAVING BAITED THE HEDGEHOG AND
FRIENDS, WE THEN MADE THE CHAOTIX
BELIEVE THE WORST CONCERNING THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS--"



YOU ALL SURVIVED!
BUT HOW?

WE HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO SQUARE WITH YOU FIRST, BUB!

ISN'T THIS SOMEWHAT UNFAIR? TWO AGAINST ONE?

HEY! THEY STARTED IT--

--AND WE'RE FINISHING IT!

IS THAT SO?

I THINK MY ELITE GUARD MIGHT THINK OTHERWISE!

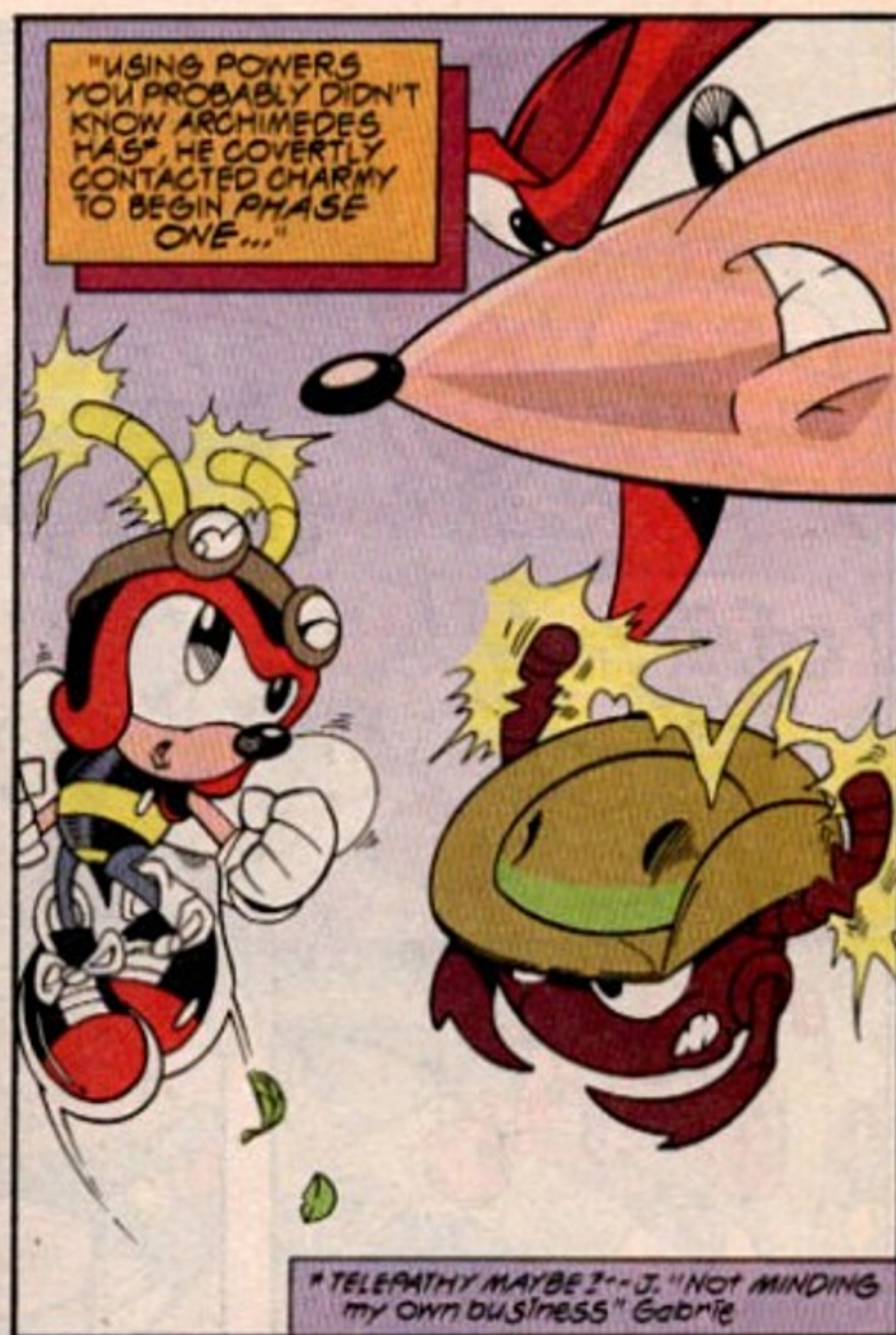
HAVE AT THEM!

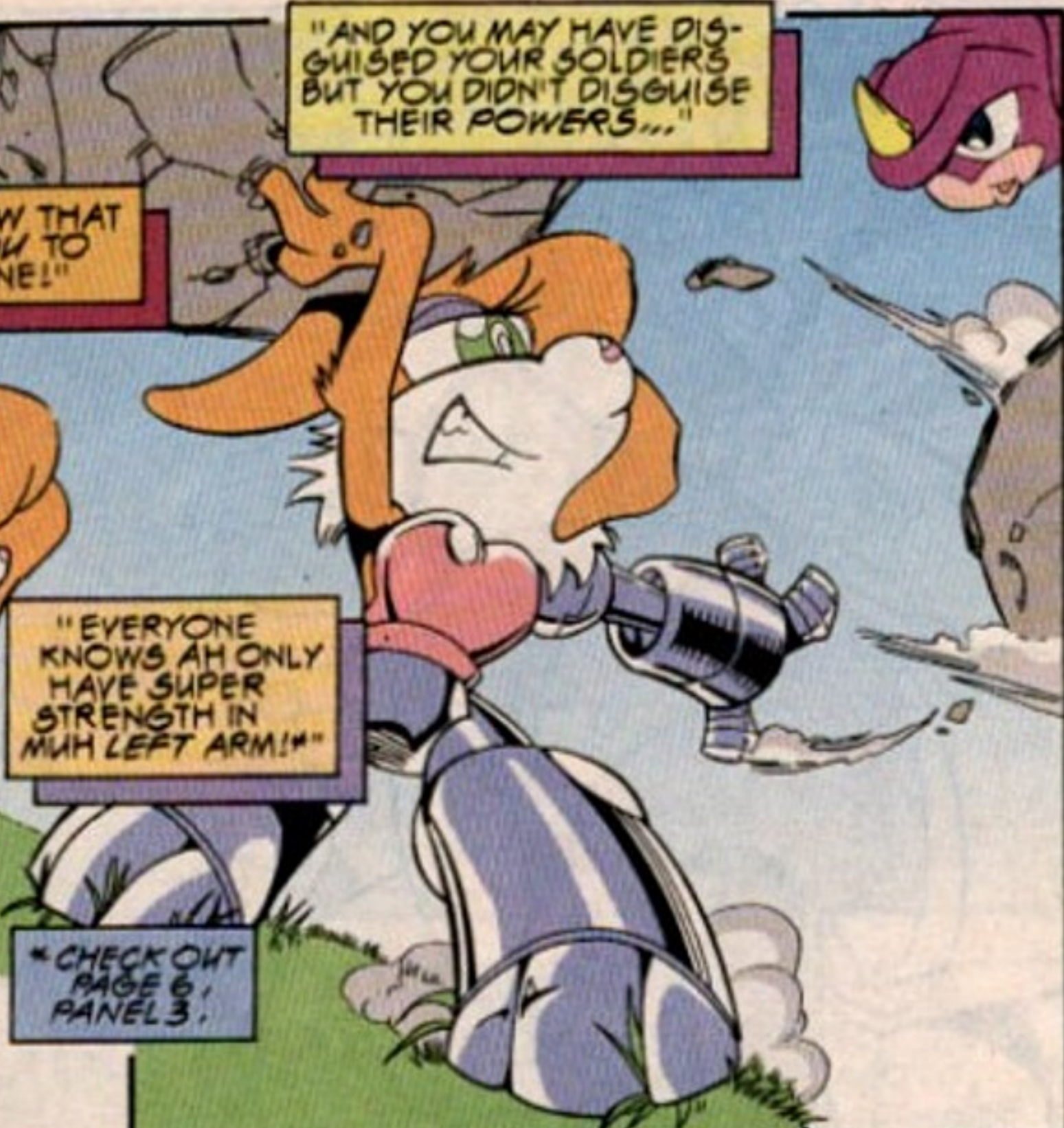
SO MUCH FOR THEM LOSERS!

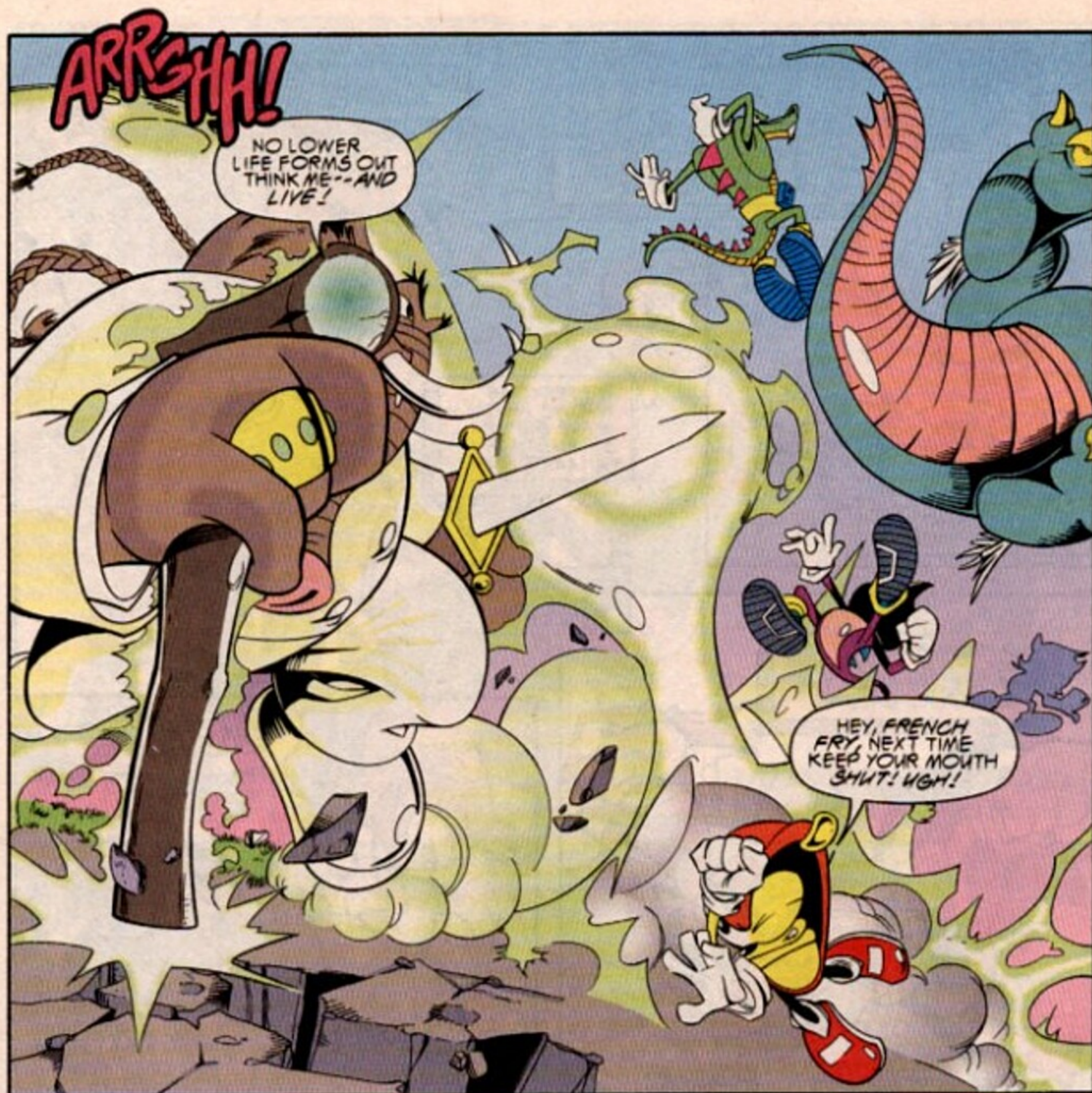
YEAH, SNOT-NOSE, TIME TO PAY THE PIPER!

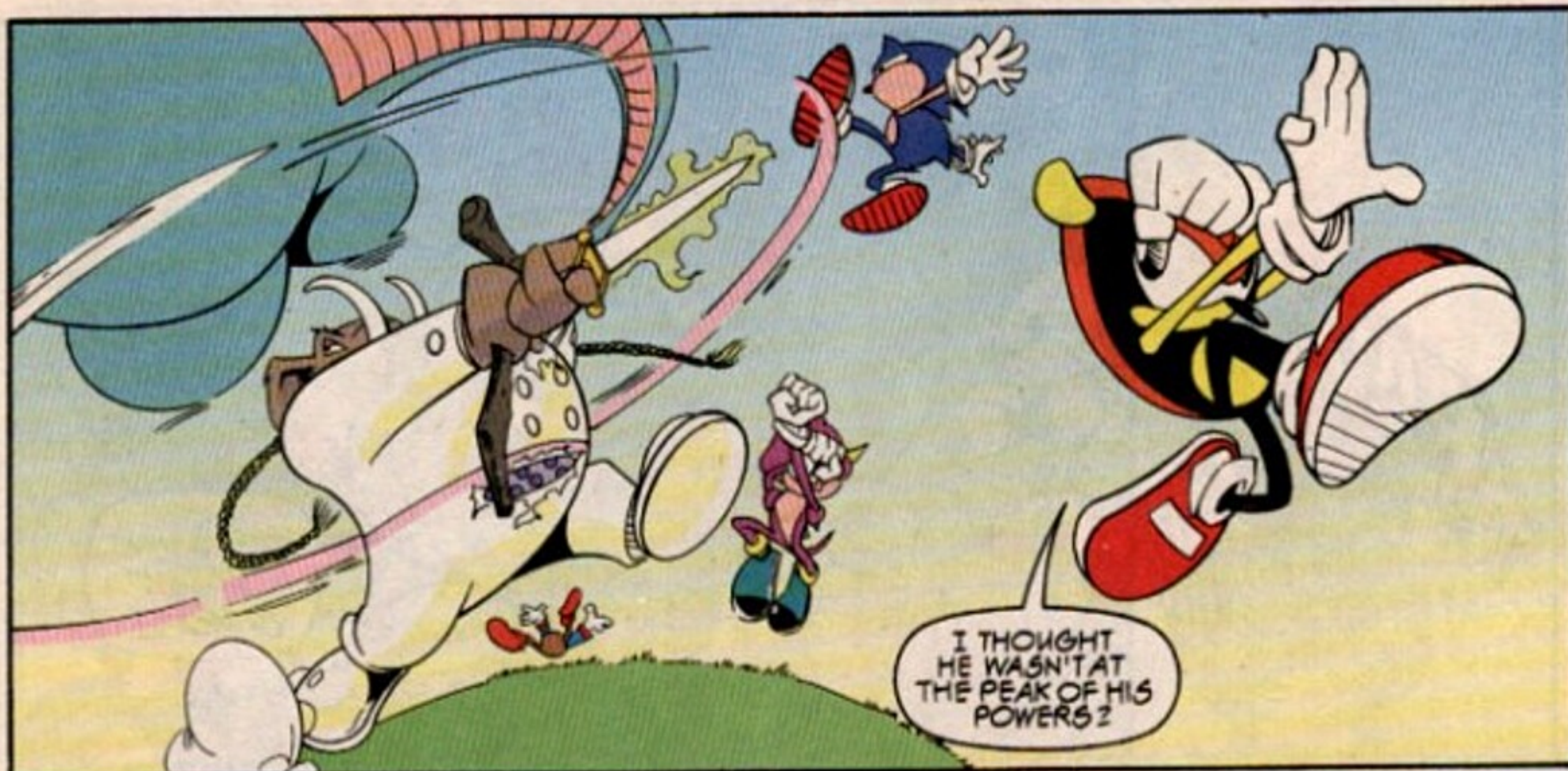
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I SAW THE LOT OF YOU VAPORIZED!

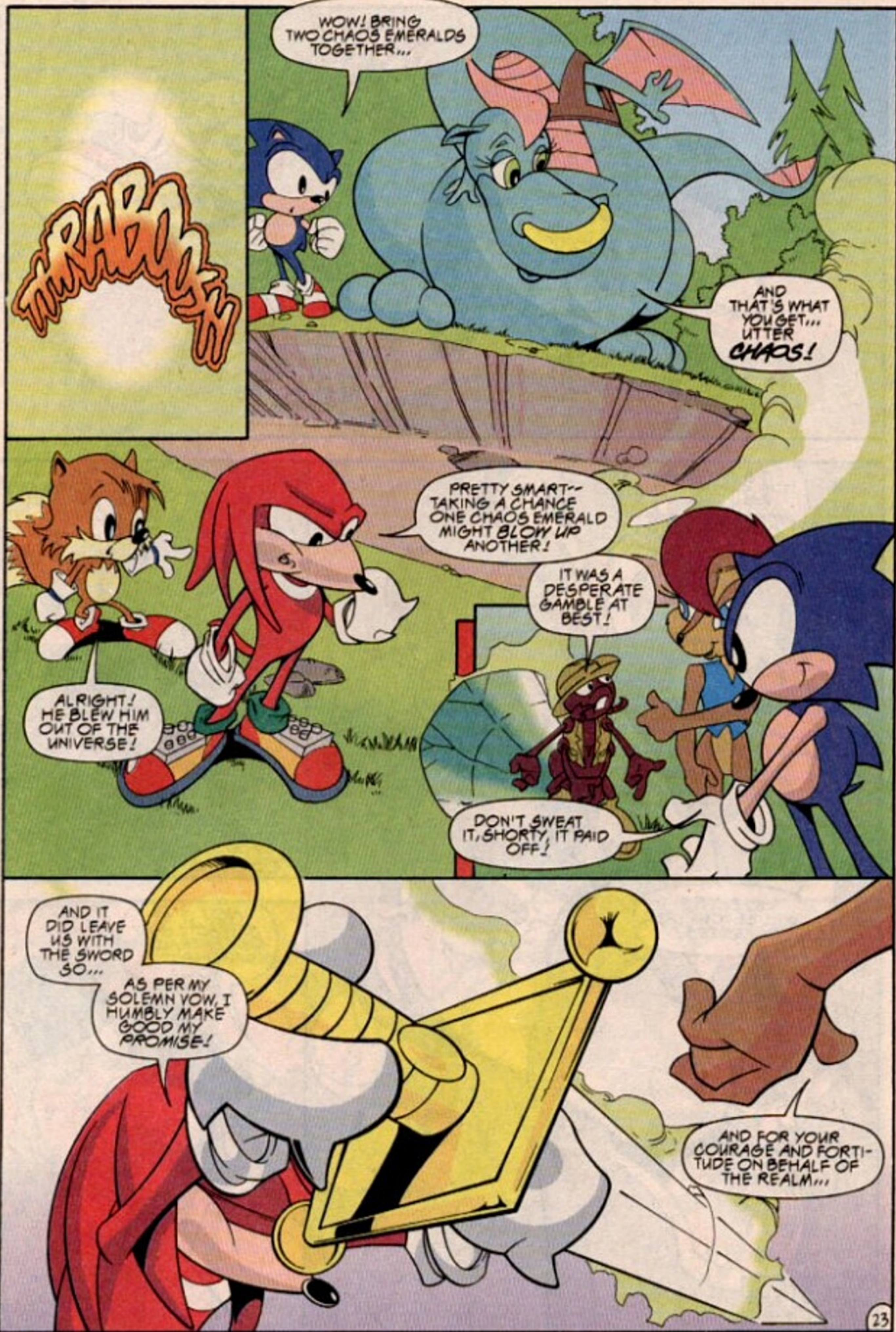
HOW COULD YOU--?











WOW! BRING
TWO CHAOS EMERALDS
TOGETHER...

CRASH

AND
THAT'S WHAT
YOU GET...
UTTER
CHAOS!

PRETTY SMART--
TAKING A CHANCE
ONE CHAOS EMERALD
MIGHT BLOW UP
ANOTHER!

IT WAS A
DESPERATE
GAMBLE AT
BEST!

ALRIGHT!
HE BLEW HIM
OUT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

DON'T SWEAT
IT, SHORTY, IT PAID
OFF!

AND IT
DID LEAVE
US WITH
THE SWORD
SO...

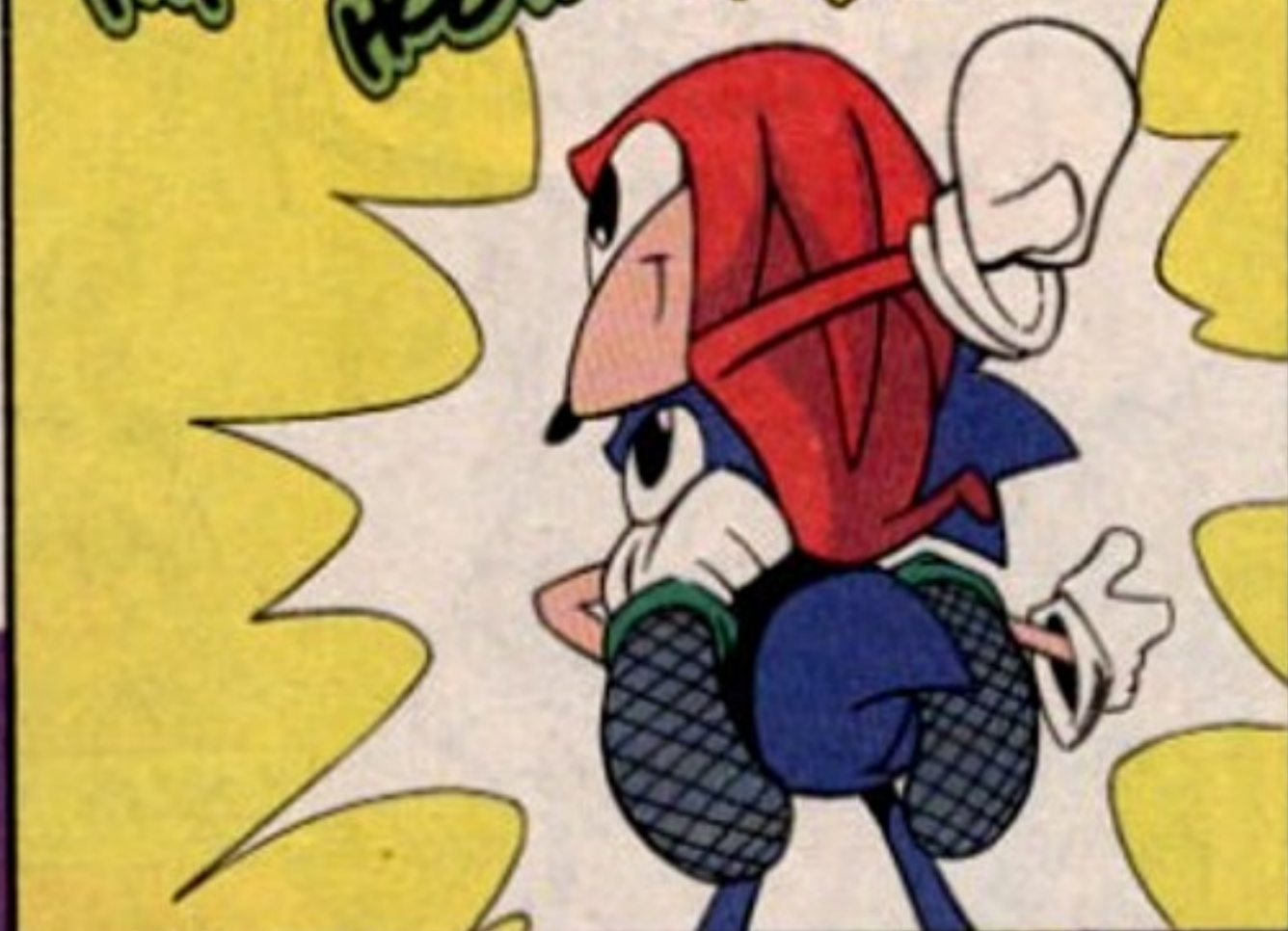
AS PER MY
SOLENN VOW, I
HUMBLY MAKE
GOOD MY
PROMISE!

AND FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND FORTI-
TUDE ON BEHALF OF
THE REALM...

I HEARBY DULY
KNIGHT YOU! YOU ARE
THIS ISLAND'S GUARDIAN,
BUT WHEN IN KNOTHOLE,
YOU ARE NOW AND FOREVER-
MORE... SIR KNUCKLES!

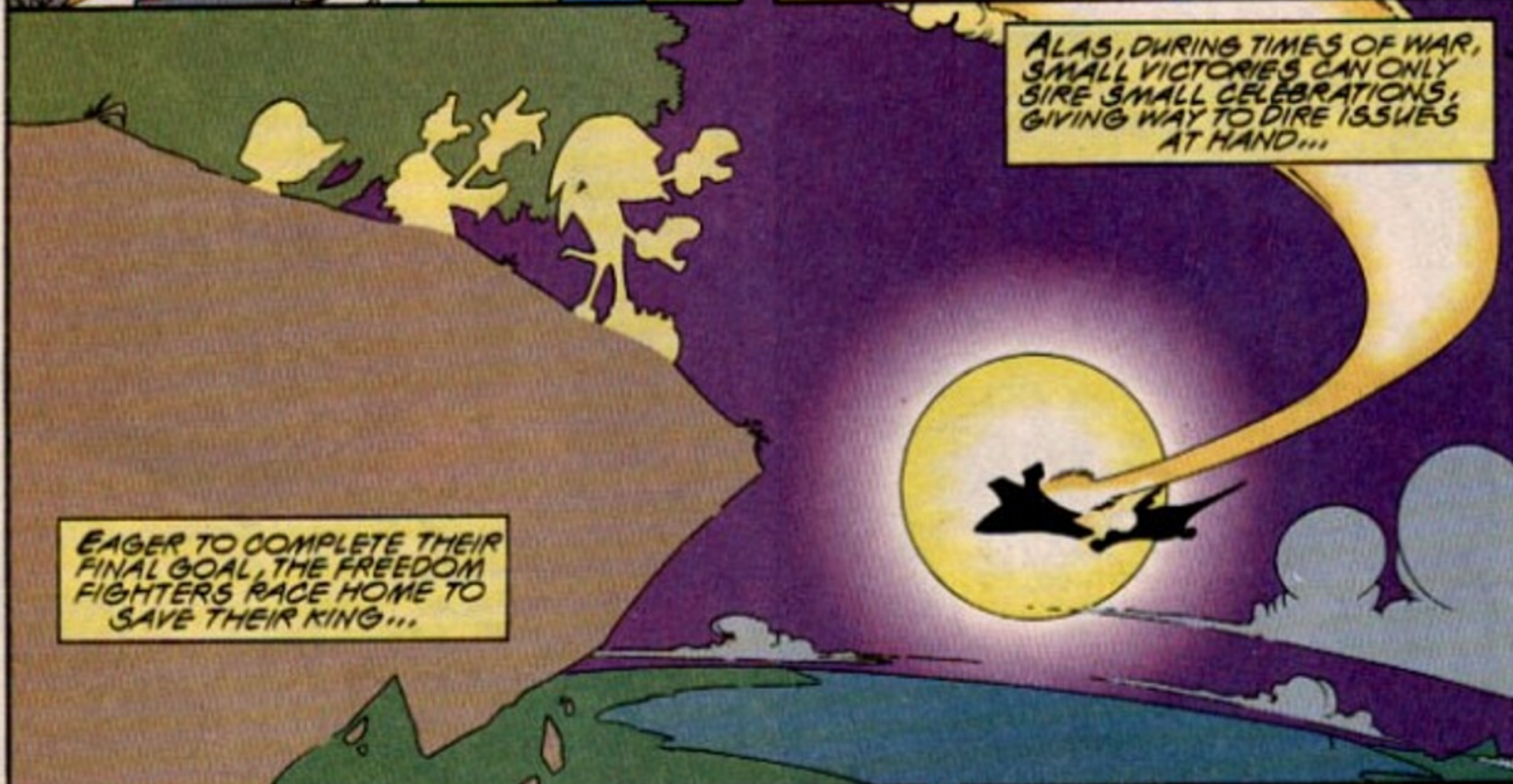


HIP HIP
HURRAY!



ALAS, DURING TIMES OF WAR,
SMALL VICTORIES CAN ONLY
SIRE SMALL CELEBRATIONS,
GIVING WAY TO DIRE ISSUES
AT HAND...

EAGER TO COMPLETE THEIR
FINAL GOAL, THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS RACE HOME TO
SAVE THEIR KING...



...NEVER SUSPECTING THAT
WHICH AWAITS THEM IN
THEIR SECRET SANCTUARY!



PRINCESS
SALLY...!

COME
QUICK,
CHILD!





DADDY!

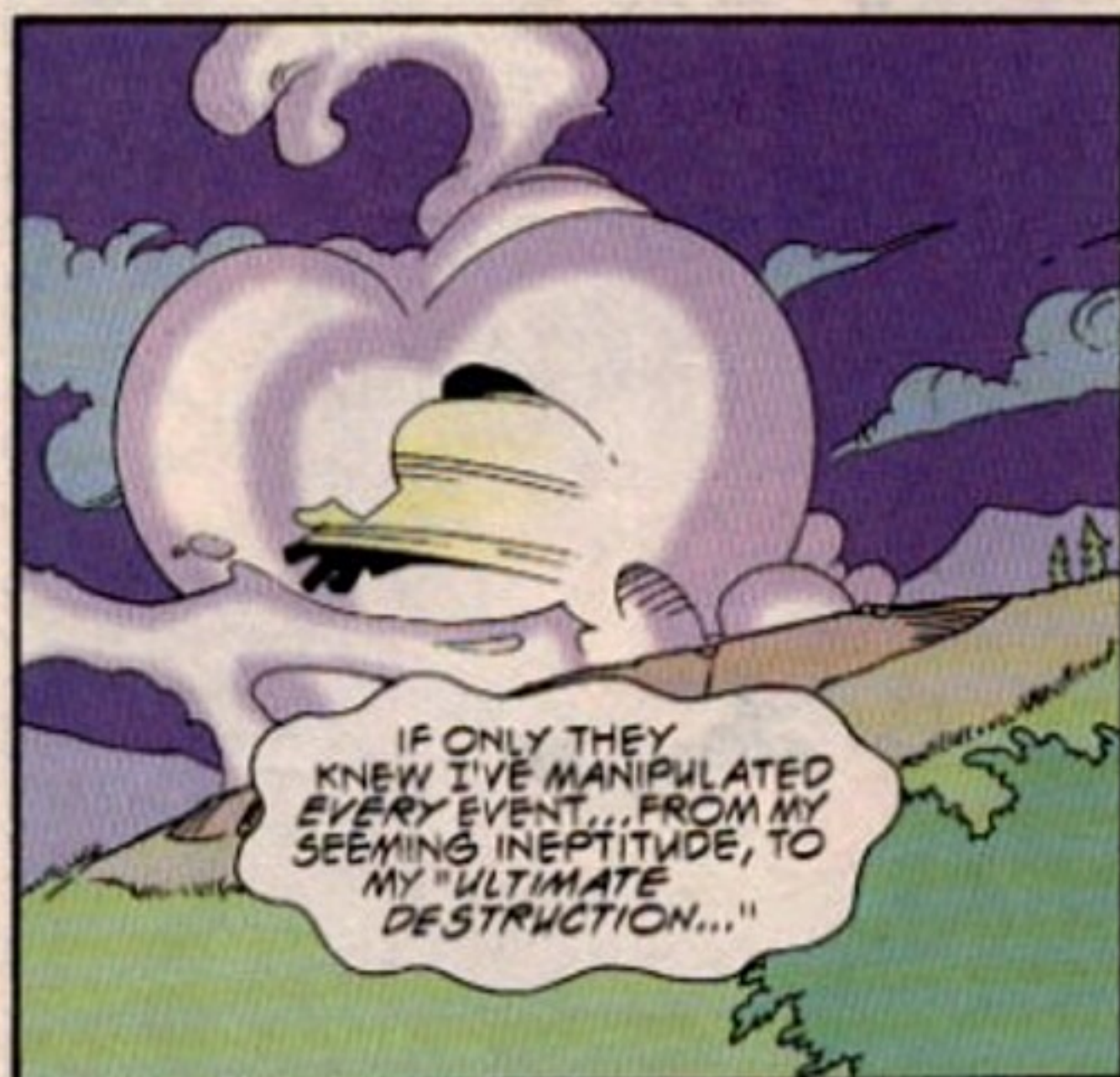
REALLY, MY DEAR SALLY, WHAT'S BECOME OF YOUR REGAL BEARING?*

* SEE SONIC #47 FOR THE LOW-DOWN.

EPILOGUE:

AND WHILE A RAY OF HOPE SEEMS TO EMIT FROM THAT FORMER REALM, IT MAY JUST BE CLOUDED BY THE SWIRLING MISTS OF AN UNKNOWN MYSTERIOUS REALM...

WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE... TO THINK THEY COULD OUT-WIT ME...



IF ONLY THEY KNEW I'VE MANIPULATED EVERY EVENT... FROM MY SEEMING INEPTITUDE, TO MY "ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION..."



...AND BY THE TIME THEY ASCERTAIN I HAVE THE REAL SWORD OF ACORNS, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!



MY MASTER PLAN WILL BE WELL NEAR COMPLETION, LEAVING THE ENTIRE PLANET MOBIUS GROVELING AT MY FEET!

KING ACORN RESTORED TO HEALTH? LOOKS LIKE IT'S COUNTDOWN TO ROBOTNIK'S DESTRUCTION, OR IS IT? THE ANSWER IS ENDGAME IN SONIC # 50. SEE LETTERS PAGE FOR DETAILS, AND WHAT OF MAMMOTH MOGUL? KEEP READING SONIC & KNUCKLES TO FIND OUT!!

BATTLE ROYAL

mail

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P.O. Box 419, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor

In four weeks, get set for the premiere of **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4** the ongoing series, starting a new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite Guardian of the Floating Island. In a three-part epic, "LOST PARADISE"

reunites Knuckles with the one person he never, ever expected to see. But an even bigger problem occurs when the fabled city of **Echidnaopolis** reappears, posing a threat to the Floating Island's eco-system. Don't miss the echidna excitement with regulars Ken Penders, Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. In the tradition of the first three issues, every three-part story-arc will sport **triple-combo covers** by fan-fave Pat

'Spaz'ante along with inks by Ken Penders and colors by those maniacs at Heroic Age! Also look for a contest announcement in his letters page to commemorate his new ongoing series.

In other Mobius news, in one week "End Game"

continues. The stakes between Robotnik and the Freedom Fighters reaches a fever-pitch. The now-healthy **King Acorn** loses his daughter in an attack on **Robotropolis**, and Sonic is arrested as the culprit responsible. Sonic escapes to clear his name. The King orders none other than **Geoffrey St. John** to track him down. That's when things get nasty. Read "Escape to the Floating Island!" in **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #49**, on sale May 1997! Whatever you do, don't miss this one!

Look out for the next Sonic Special coming your way in four months time... **SONIC SPECIAL '97: A BRAVE NEW WORLD #1!** 'Nuff said!

Freddy

P.S.: Attention! Attention! Mike Wallis' name was spelled incorrectly in the "SONIC BLAST" Special #1 credits page. Sorry, Mike.



SONIC #49
On sale MAY 1997



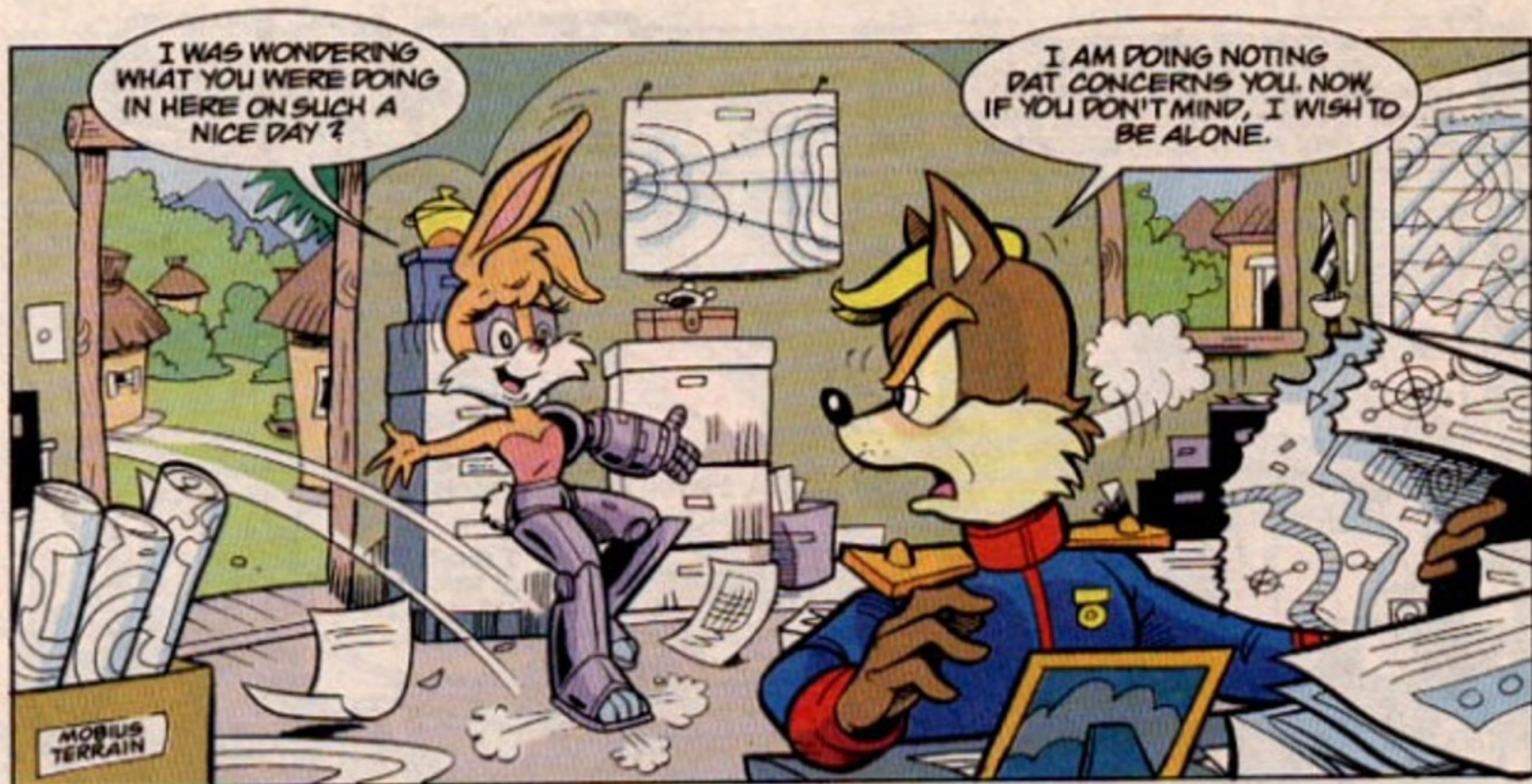
7 THE FLIGHT OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS A NEVER-ENDING ONE. EACH TRIES FINDING A WAY TO STOP ROBOTNIK'S TERRORIZING OF THE FOREST EVERY SINGLE DAY. TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION.

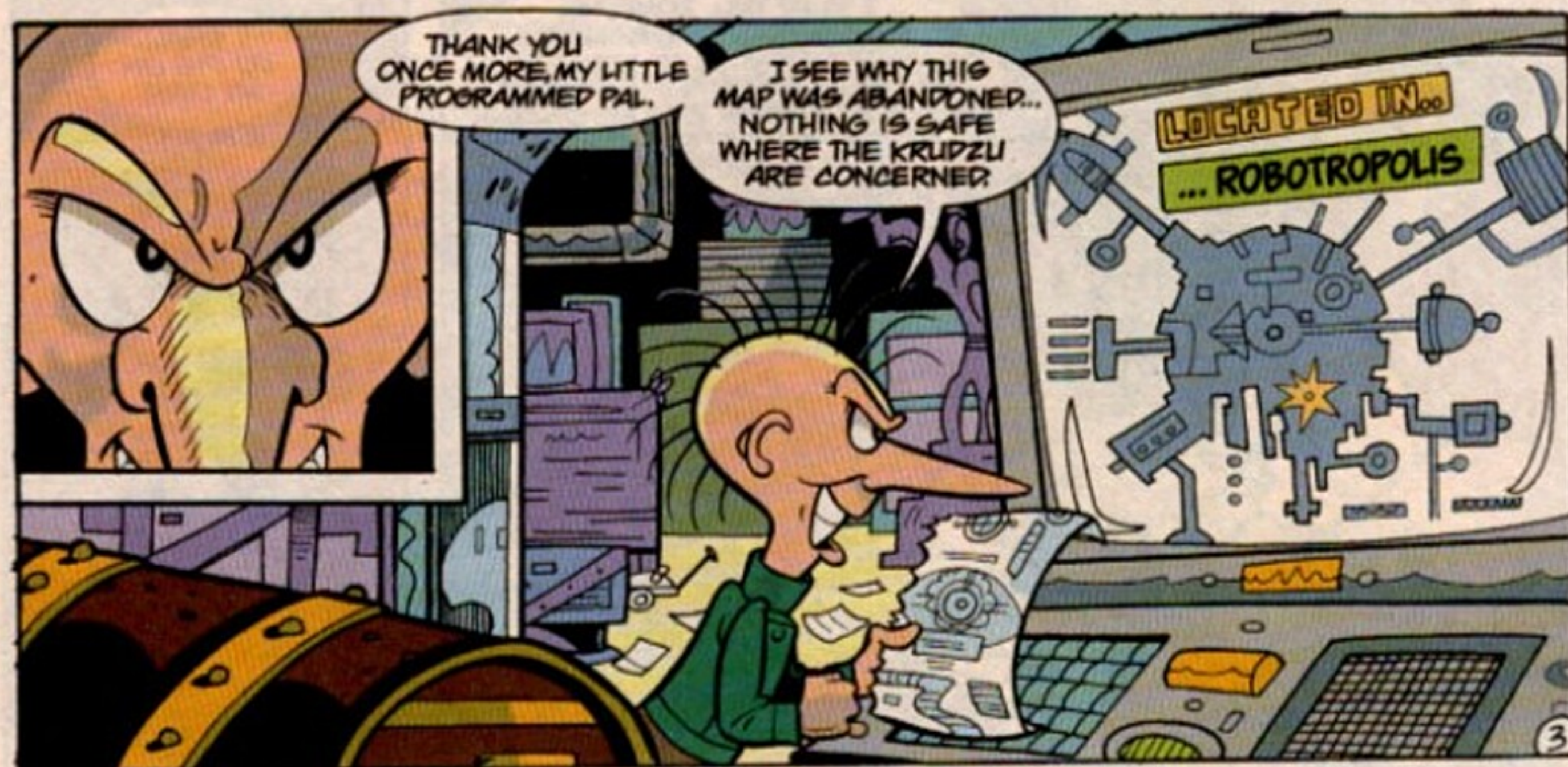
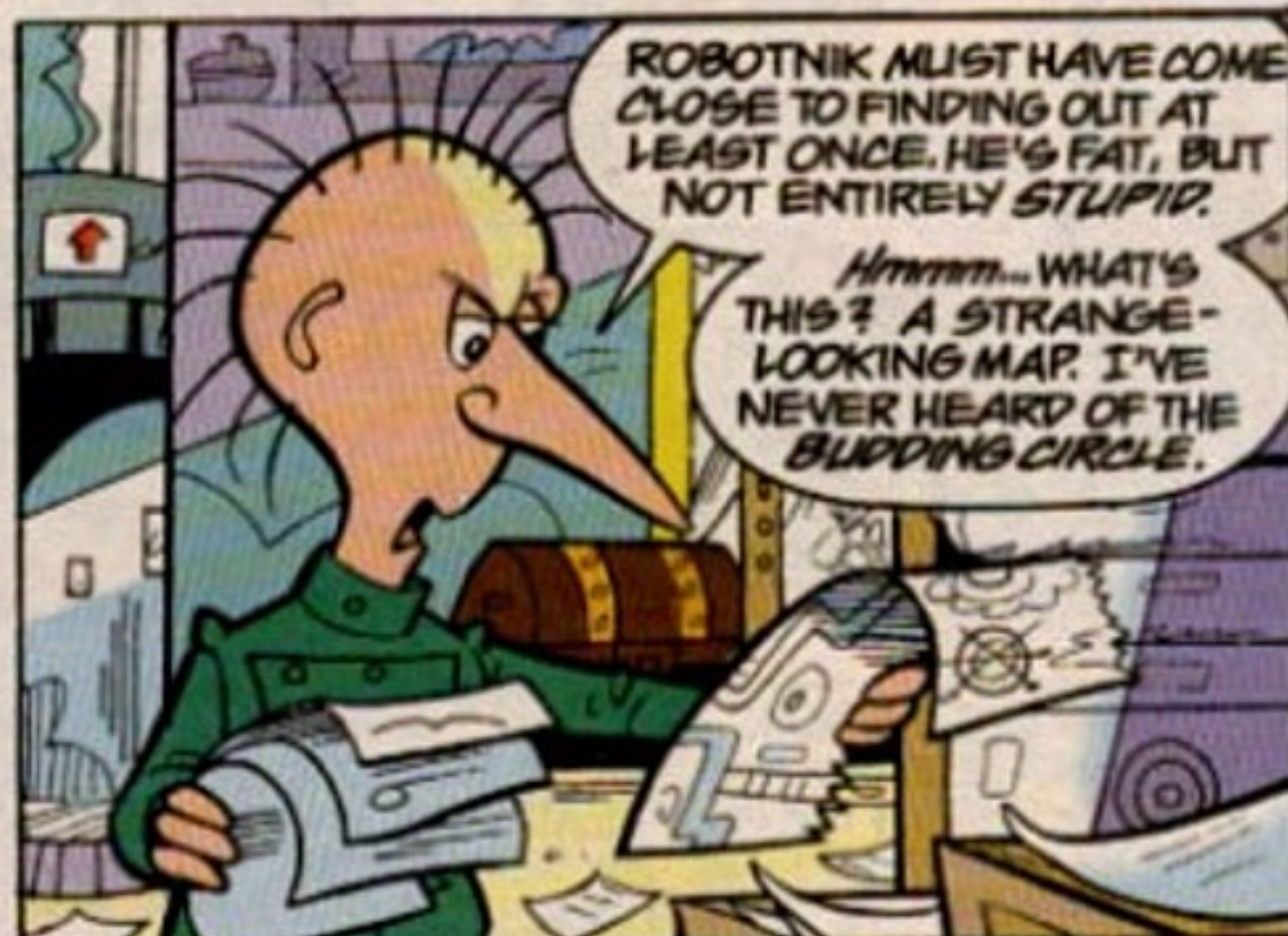
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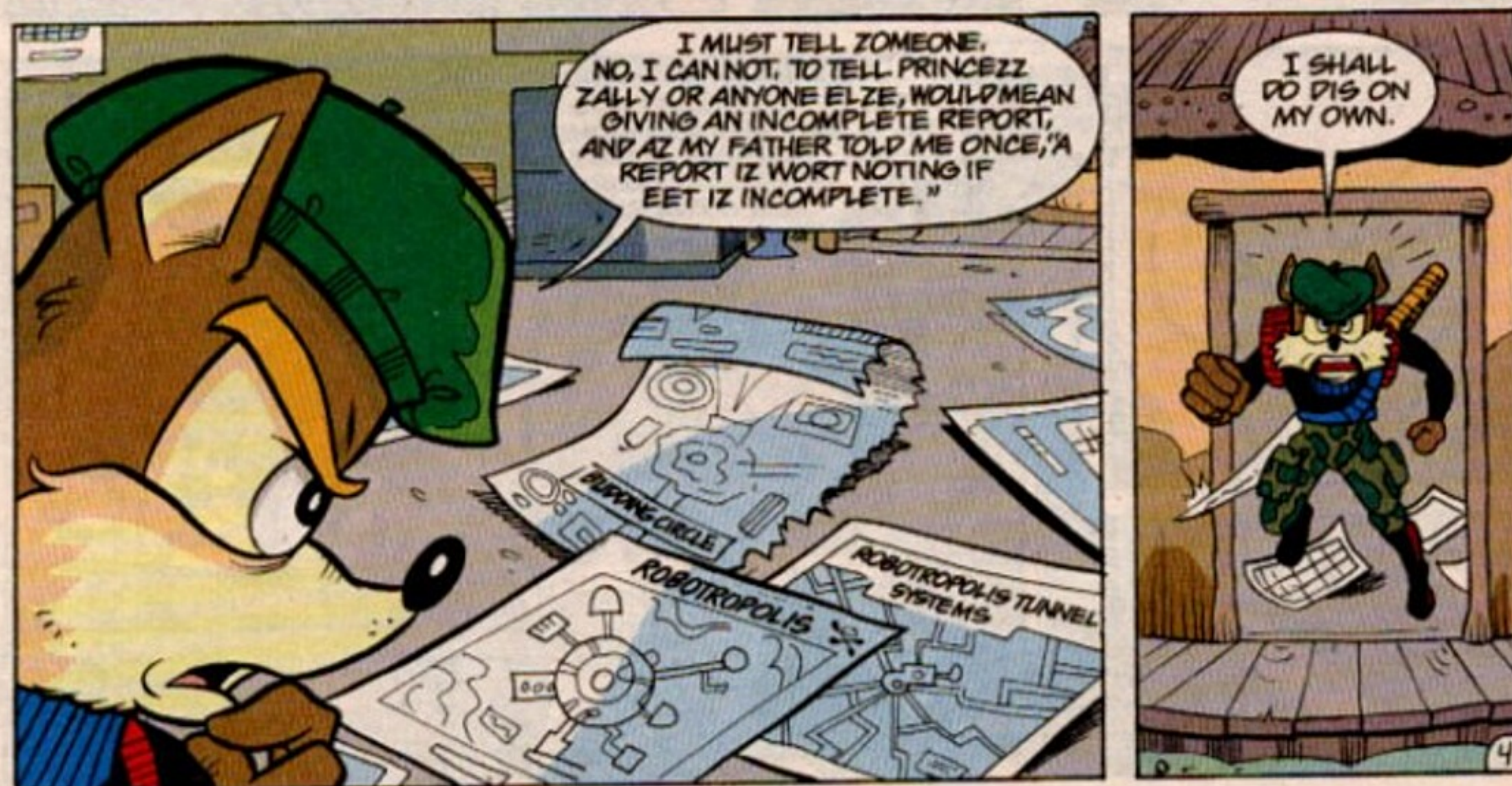
THE MAP

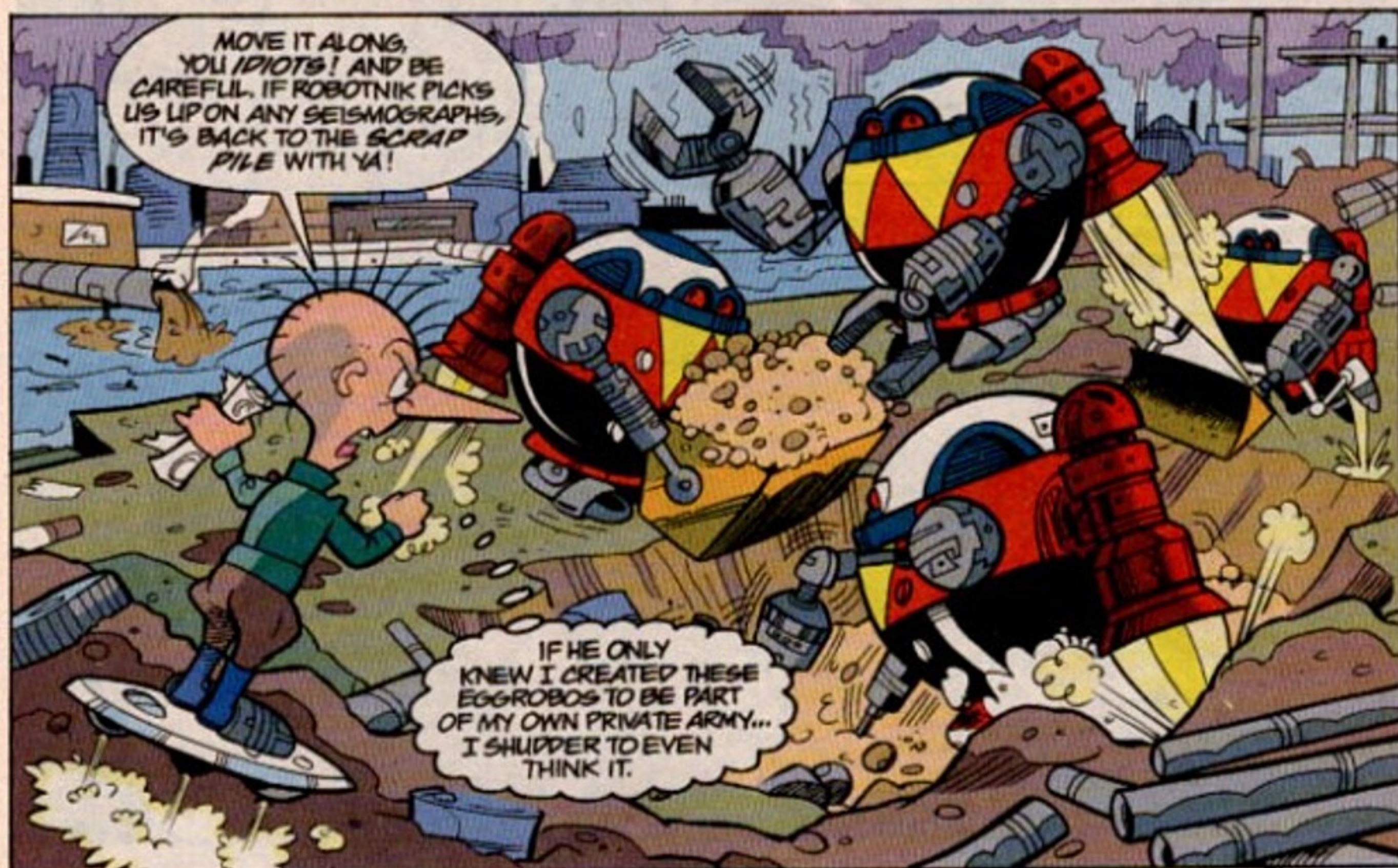
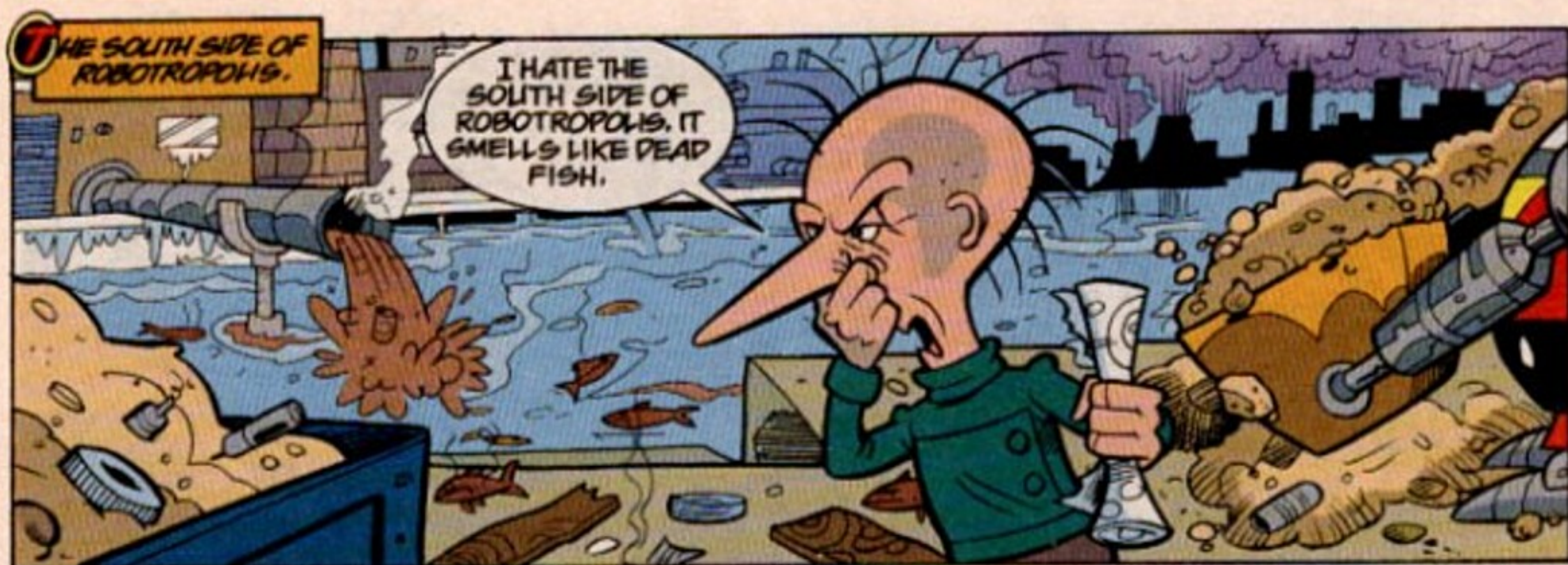
PART ONE

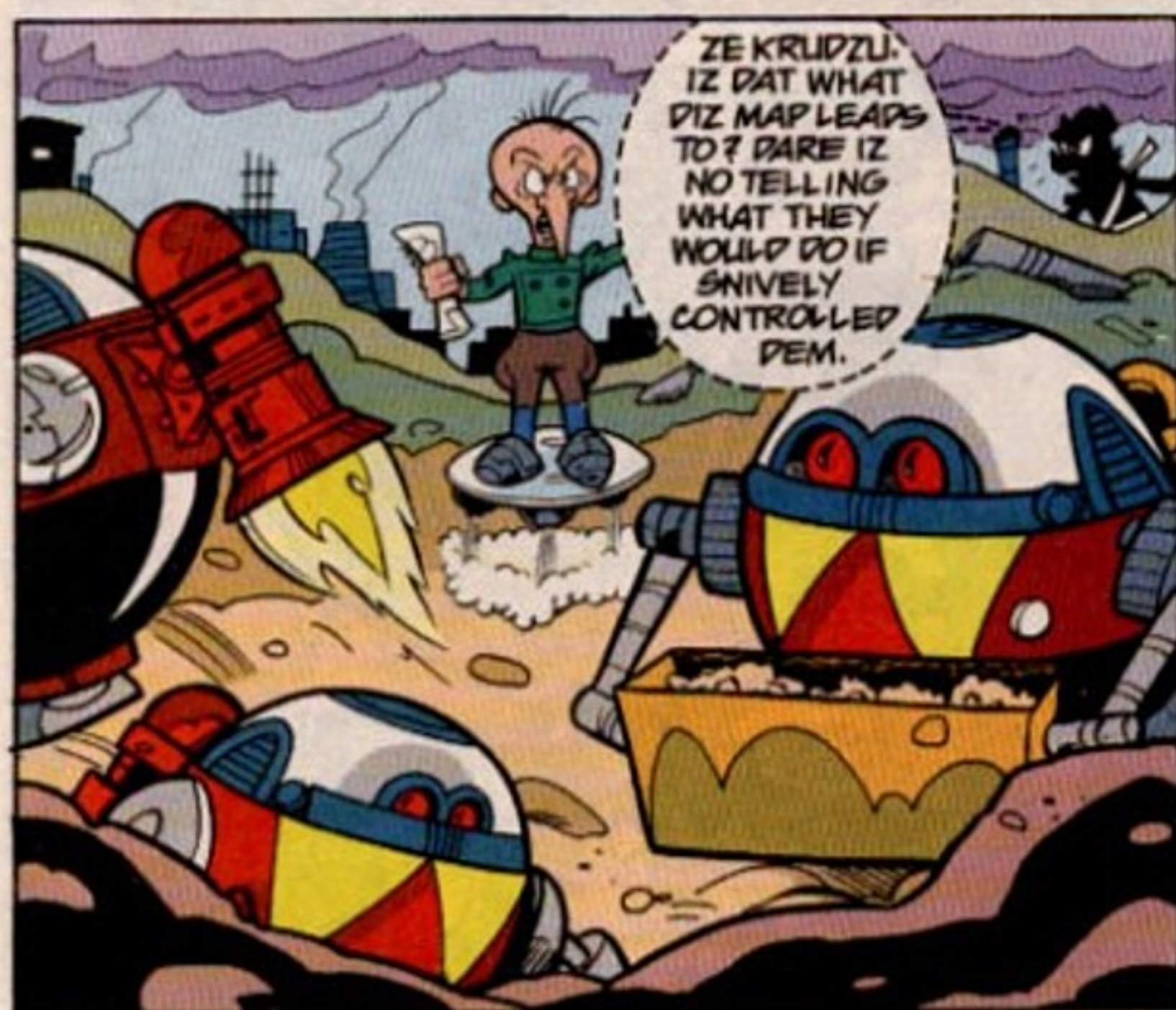


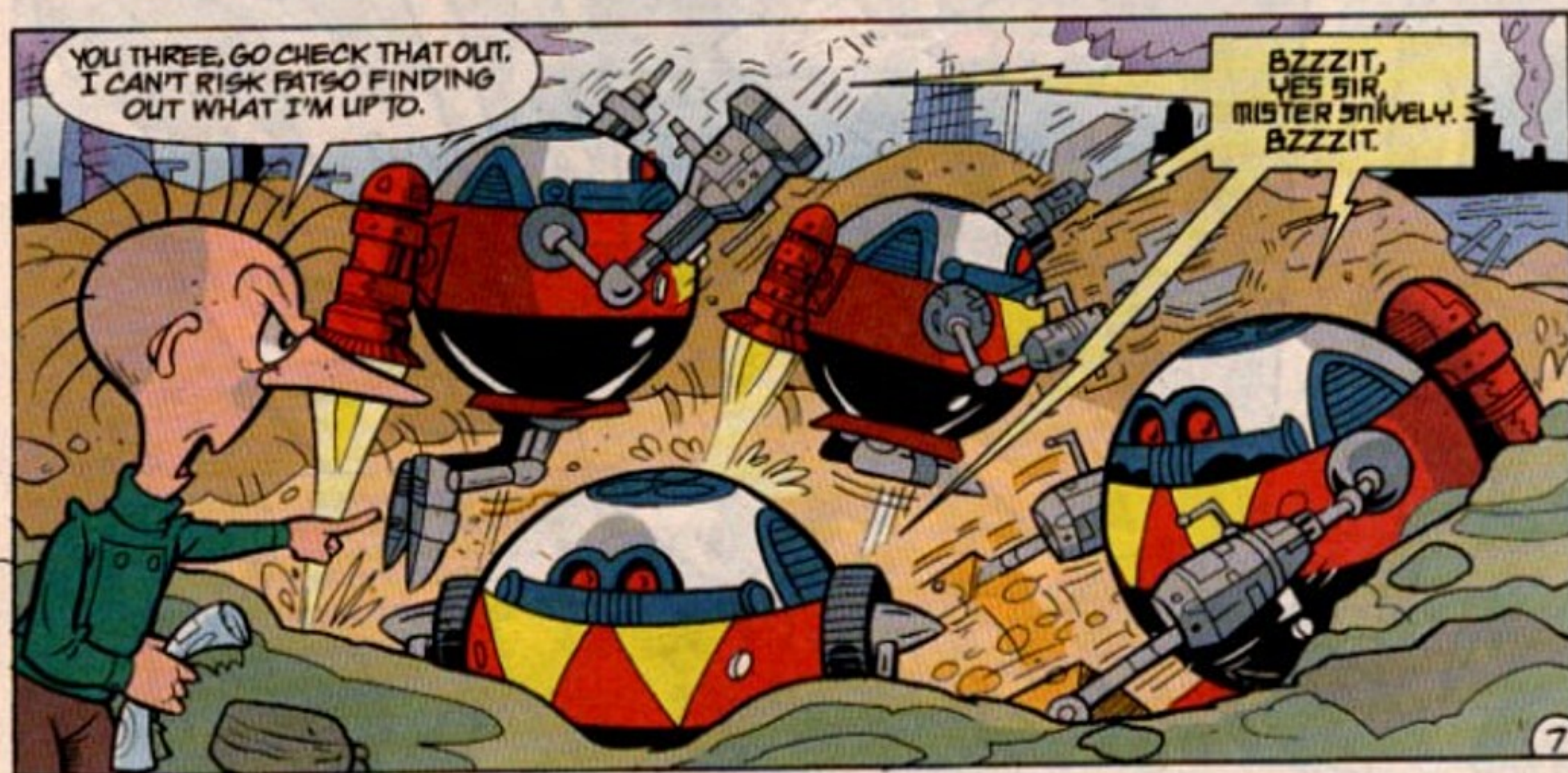


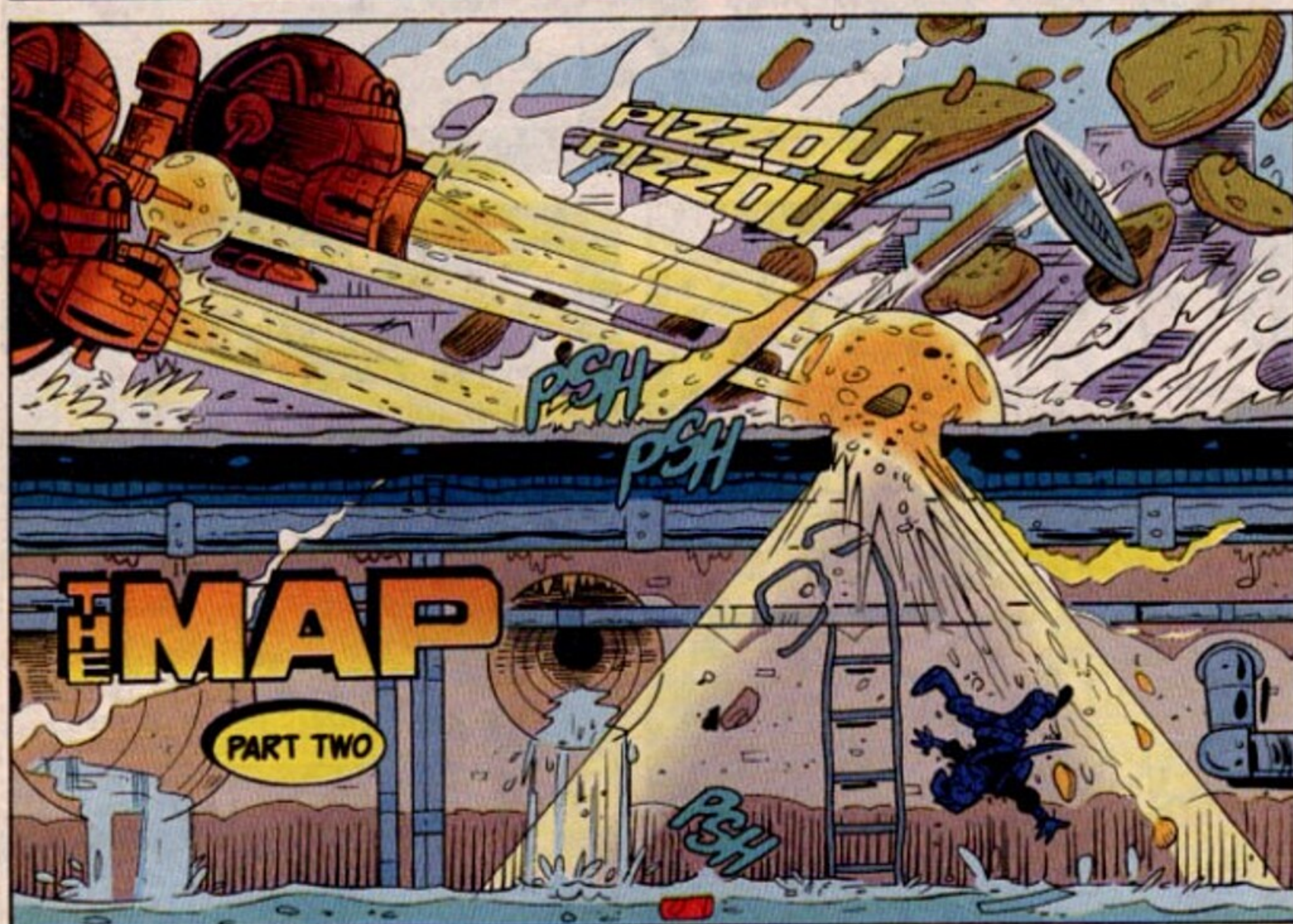














BZZZIT. SEARCH.

DESTROY. BZZZIT.

ZIS IZ
DE END FOR
ME.

WILL ANTOINE MAKE IT BACK TO
KNOTHOLE TO WARN HIS FRIENDS,
OR HAS TIME RUN OUT FOR THE
FREEDOM FIGHTER?

END OF
PART
ONE



PERHAPS UNCLE CHUCK SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS THING SLIME PROOF, NO?

I MUST REMIND MYSELF TO ZANK UNCLE CHUCK FOR HIS LOCATOR DEVICE. IF I CAN ONLY GET IT TO WORK.



BZZIT.
WE HAVE A
LOCK ON TARGET.
BZZIT.



CRASH

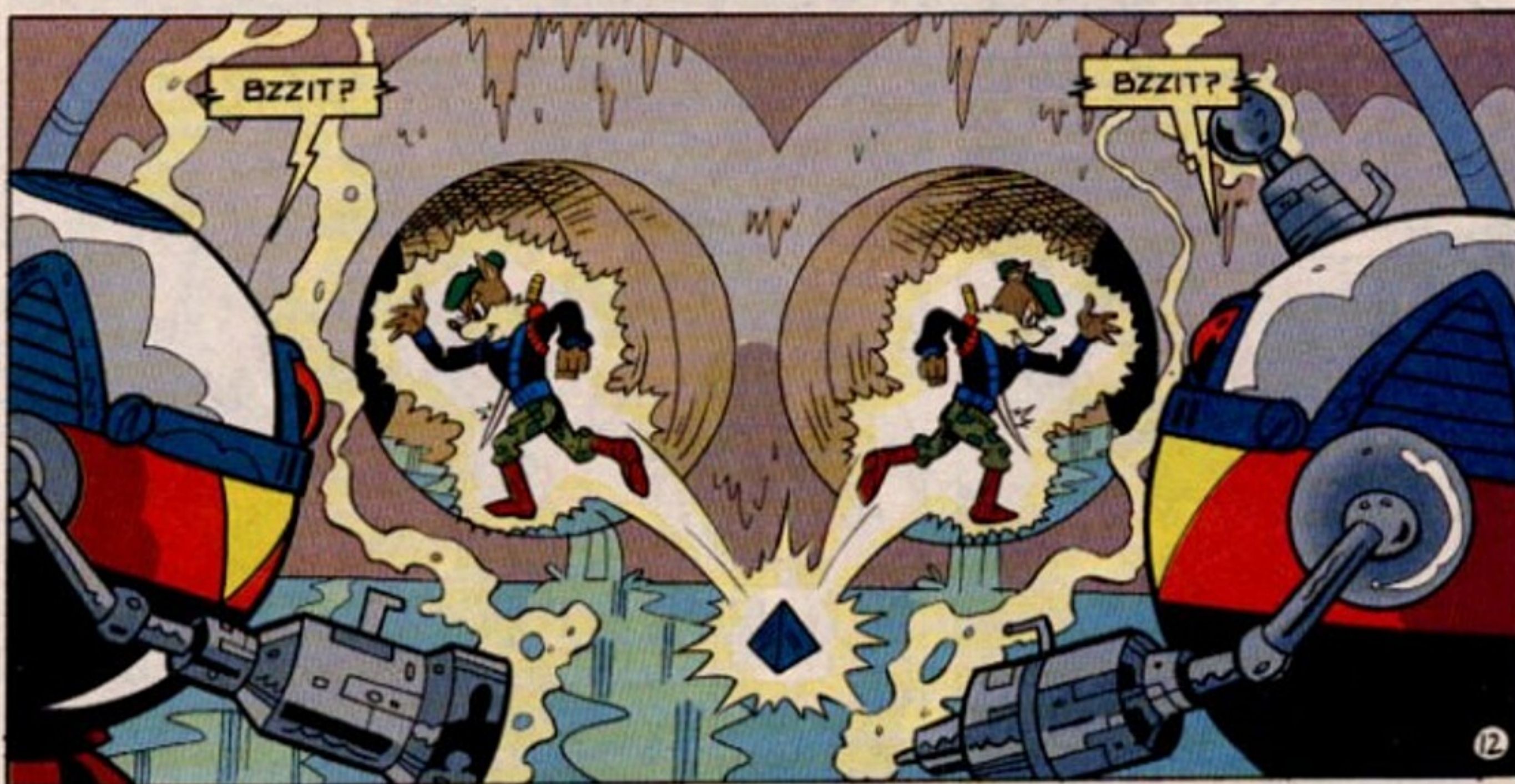
ZONIC WOULD SAY SOMETHING SNAPPY RIGHT NOW, BUT I CAN NO TINK OF ANYTING.



BZZIT. TARGET LOCATED.
INITIATE SEARCH. BZZIT.

DO ZEES
GUYZ EVA GIVE
UP?

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE. MUST...
WARN... OTHERS...









OH, NO!

HANG ON ROTOR,
BE THERE IN A JIFF!
BUNNIE, I COULD USE
SOME COVER FIRE,

YOU GOT
IT, SUGA'!



ANTOINE!

--CATCH!



THANKS FOR SHOWING
UP ANTOINE, AND THANKS
FOR THE RING!



DON'T
WORRY, PAL.

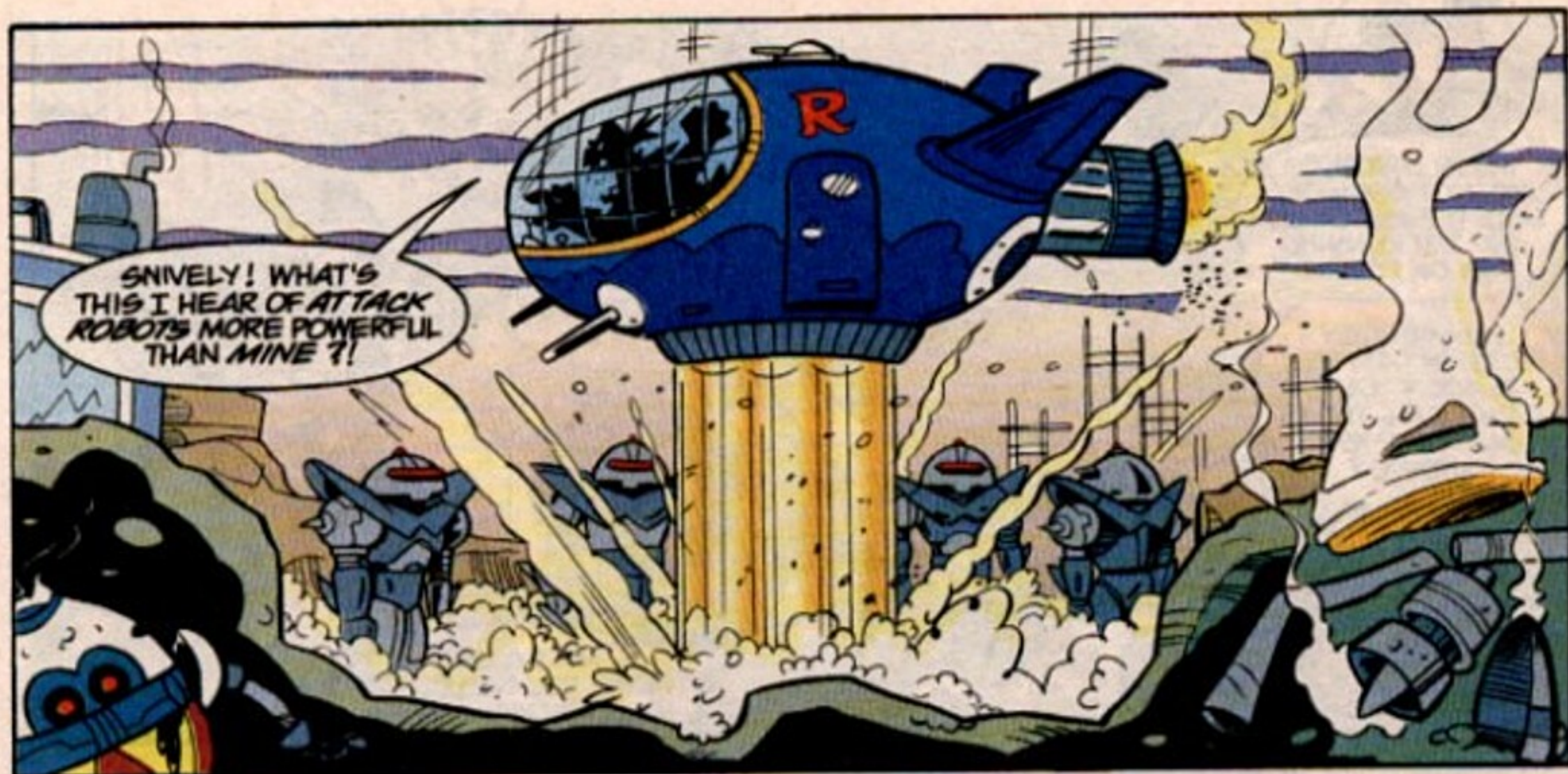


I DON'T
FEEL SO
GOOD.



BUNNIE--WE'VE GOT
INBOUND SWATBOTS AT
THREE O'CLOCK.





SNIVELY! WHAT'S THIS I HEAR OF ATTACK ROBOTS MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE?!



WHAT ATTACK ROBOTS? OH, YOU MEAN MY DIGGING ROBOTS.

I GOT THIS ANONYMOUS CALL TELLING ME YOU HAD SOME NEW, SUPER-POWERED 'BOTS, YOU DESTROYED THE 'BOTS, DIDN'T YOU?



WELL SIR, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED: I WAS TESTING AN EXPERIMENTAL TOXIN USED TO LEVEL ANY GROUND STRUCTURE, NAMELY TREES AND THINGS FOUND IN THE FOREST... WHEN THESE ACCURSED FREEDOM FIGHTERS ATTACKED, I'M AFRAID ALL MY RESEARCH WAS DESTROYED, AS WELL AS THE "DIGGING" ROBOTS, SIR.

THEY SHALL PAY A HEAVY PRICE FOR THEIR ARROGANCE, SNIVELY! THIS, I COMMAND!

BACK IN KNOTHOLE...



IT'S A GOOD THING UNCLE CHUCK MADE THAT CALL TO ROBOTNIK WHEN HE DID. A SHAME I NEVER FIND OUT WHAT'S AT ZE UPER END OF ZE MAP.

MAYBE TOMEDAY.

THE END